

Prayer of 1 Peter 1
Part 2

V. 6

- The first thing to understand in verse 6 is that even though we have been saved by God, walk in a personal relationship with Jesus and have been filled with the Spirit, **there are going to be a steady stream of temptations, tests and trials in this life**
 - o When a person becomes born again, not only do they gain a personal Savior through Jesus Christ, but ***they also gain a persistent enemy in satan***
 - o Saying yes to Jesus as Savior is the surest way to have a target painted on your life by satan, who looks for every way to steal, kill and destroy your life
 - o His whole mission once a person is born again is to make him or her as ineffective for the kingdom of God and the spreading of the gospel as possible

- The primary purpose of these temptations and tests is clearly shown: to produce heaviness and become a tiresome weight to the believer
 - o The Greek work here for heaviness includes every part of man's life: spirit, soul and body
 - o The word carries with it the meaning ***of intellectual weariness, bodily pain and spiritual sorrow***
 - o This word describes the fiery darts the enemy has aimed at a believer's faith to quench it and make it powerless

- In all of this, however, there is an important point that will get the believer through any of these tests: all temptations, though painful and wearisome, ***are only for a season***
 - o This means that there are different times in life when it seems that the enemy knows every step you take, every thought you think and has a plan that appears to succeed every time
 - o ***We must not wonder why these times happen*** or get to thinking that it is because our faith is not working or up to par
 - o Rather, it is just the fact that satan is disgusted with you and wants to stop you at all costs

- Trying to figure out why these tests and trials come on our life only causes us to fall further into anxiety and fear, *which is the devil's playground*
- It is during these times that *we must have our faith rooted and grounded in the love of God*, knowing that no matter how difficult the test may become, He is both preserving us in the trial and taking us through it to victory
 - Focusing on the circumstances will only give the devil a tighter grip on our lives
 - He has already been defeated in the spiritual realm and now, the natural realm is the only realm that he can still have the right to exercise influence in
 - We must not try to defeat the devil with his own weapons, *but with our heavenly weapons, which are mighty through God to tear down every stronghold he attempts to construct*
 - We must always make the devil come to battle on our terms, *always warring in the spirit because Jesus has already spoiled him and all his authority in the spirit realm*
 - What revives the mind of a believer is knowing that even when the trial appears impossible or unending, **they are actually in a fixed fight** and are **GUARANTEED** victory **IF** they continue having faith in a faithful God
- This is why far too many believers do not experience the breakthrough promised to them in the Word
 - Not because the Lord is unfaithful, but because **they allowed the devil to pollute their thinking**, causing their faith to become feeble, to cave in and quit rather than push on to victory
 - That shows the pattern the devil always attempts to initiate: *wrong thinking produces wrong believing, wrong believing produces wrong actions and wrong actions produces defeat*
 - The key to overcoming the heaviness of the temptations of life is to always approach them from the standpoint of victory in the spirit and force the devil to fight the fight of faith, rather than operate carnally and experience defeat

V.7

- *One of the biggest lies* that is persistent among believers today is that it is the Lord putting the burdens and yokes of oppression on His children **FOR TEACHING PURPOSES**

- But John 10:10 could not be more clear that **it is the devil bringing the attacks to steal, kill and destroy**
- Endless amounts of believers have been duped into believing that it is the Lord using sickness, poverty or some other part of the curse trying to teach them humility or bringing them correction
- Some Christians have been passed down these lies from generation to generation and their ignorance is the cause for their destruction
- The only way these generational lies can be defeated is by turning our eyes from the perverted doctrines of men and accepting the Word of God as the truth
- The purpose of the test or trial is not simply the enemy's desire to bring destruction, but, first and foremost, to **discover the quality of one's faith**
 - The true quality of a believer's faith is not seen when the skies are blue and all is well, but when the storms of life come and all one can do is depend on God to deliver them
 - The majority of tests in life will not be life-threatening, but **every one** will in some way force you to choose between believing in the lies of the devil or the truth of God's Word
 - When we choose to focus on the Word rather than the schemes and lies of the devil, we walk in faith, pass the test and receive the reward at the end of the verse: **our faith brings praise, honor and glory to Jesus!**
- At the beginning of this verse we see how we are to get through the tests and trials; during these trials, we can not only experience victory, but also be a testimony before others
 - It is by **continually rejoicing in the salvation that awaits us** at the appearing of Jesus
 - The key word here is CONTINUALLY
 - Our joy and confession of faith during the storm cannot be dictated by the storm
 - It must always be based on the Word, even when our flesh and feelings scream otherwise
 - Having our mind focused on the salvation that is to be manifested at the return of the Lord will cause thanksgiving in our heart; it will cause us to rejoice and, as a result, give us strength to endure any persecution, test or trial

- When we are capable of flowing in the strength of the spirit and not playing the devil's games, the enemy has no way of stopping us
- We can surely know that every test and trial not only sharpens our faith, but causes the Lord to be pleased and reward us when He says, "well done, good and faithful servant!"