

THANKFUL IN THE VALLEY

PRAISES FROM THE VALLEY AGAIN, OH HOW I'VE HAD TO GROW IN YOU IN SO MANY WAYS, REFINE AND REFRESH ME, SANCTIFY AND CHANGE ME, SO I CAN BE MORE, SO I CAN BE SO MUCH MORE. A YOUNG CHRISTIAN MAN WROTE THOSE LYRICS A LONG TIME AGO, NOT KNOWING HOW PROPHETIC IT WOULD BE IN HIS OWN LIFE. THE SONG IS NAMED "THE VALLEY" THE BAND, "CTG" THE YOUNG CHRISTIAN MAN, WAS ME. I HAD NO IDEA WHAT KIND OF FUTURE LAY AHEAD, I JUST KNEW GOD WAS REAL, IN HIS TRIUNE BEING, HIS WORD WAS JUST STARTING TO MAKE SENSE, AND CHAINS BEGAN TO FALL OFF ME AS THE WORD RENEWED MY MIND. MY LIFE, LIKE YOURS, HAS BEEN A SERIES OF DESERT, MOUNTAIN TOP, AND VALLEY EXPERIENCES. ALL HAPPENING SIMULTANIOUSLY. TODAY I WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT OUR PERSPECTIVE IN THE VALLEY. HOW DO I STAY THANKFUL IN THE VALLEY? HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO WALK THROUGH? HAVE I SET UP CAMP AND QUIT WALKING ALL TOGETHER? WHAT EXACTLY IS "THE VALLEY"? LISTEN... THE VALLEY IS OUR TESTING GROUND CHURCH. THE VALLEY IS THE TESTING GROUND OF OUR FAITH. TRUE GENUINE FAITH HAS NBEEN TESTED, TRIED, ANMD SHOWN TO BE TRUE. THERE IS NO UTUBE CHANNEL AND NO CHEAT CODE. FAITH RIDES

NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE IN YOUR WALK, TAKE HEED TO THE SCRIPTURES WE STUDY TODAY.

WE ARE GOING TO LOOK AT THE EPISTLE/LETTER FROM JAMES. WRITTEN AROUND OR BEFORE AD 50 TO THE JEWISH BELIEVERS THAT HAD BEEN SCATTERED AFTER STEVEN'S STONING & DEATH. WE CAN SAFELY CONCLUDE THAT THEY WERE EXPERIENCING A "VALLEY" OR "TRIAL" TYPE OF LIFE. JAMES, WANTS HIS FELLOW CHRIST FOLLOWERS TO HAVE THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE

JAMES IS JESUS' HALF BROTHER NOT THE APOSTLE

²James 1:2 ESV

Count it all joy, my brothers, **when** you meet trials of various kinds,

THIS IS NOT A NATURAL RESPONSE, IT'S SUPERNATURAL

COUNT /HEGEOMAI / LEAD, GUIDE, REGARD, UNDERSTAND, CONSIDER

MEET / PERIPIPTO / TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF, TO BE ATTACKED / SUCKERPUNCHED

TRIALS / PEIRASMOS / TEST, SEVERE TESTING, TEMPTATION

VARIOUS / POIKILOS / MANY KINDS, VARIOUS SHAPES AND SIZES

WE ARE TO TAKE IT ALL IN, HOLD IT UP TO SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:18 ESV

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Philippians 1:29 ESV

²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,

YOU WILL SUFFER WHEN YOU CHOOSE OBEDIENCE OVER YOUR FLESH..WE ARE GRANTED ACCESS INTO CHRIST'S SUFFERING WHICH GIVES US ACCESS TO HIS RESURRECTION

1 Peter 4:12-13 ESV

¹² Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

GOD PERMITTED YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH THE VALLEY.... SO THE PATH HAS ALREADY BEEN MAPPED OUT...IT'S NARROW, PAINFUL, HEALING, CONVICTING, AND CLEANSING, ULTIMATELY SANCTIFYING US, MAKING US HOLY LIKE HIM

James 1:2-3 ESV

² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

FAITH PRODUCES

TESTING / DOKIMION / TESTED BY FIRE /PROVEN GENUINENESS

STEADFASTNESS / HYPOMONE / PATIENT ENDURANCE,
PERSEVERANCE, STAND FIRM

THIS IS A SUPERNATURAL RESPONSE TO HARDSHIPS...WHY?
BECAUSE TRIALS TEST YOUR FAITH, YOUR GENUINENESS OR
LACK THERE OF WILL SHOW

THIS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH ABIDING

THE VALLEY IS MEANT TO BRING US CLOSER TO GOD THROUGH
THE READING, MEDITATION, AND EXECUTION OF THE
SCRIPTURES. ALLOWING THE SCRIPTURES TO KILL OUR
EGOS/FLESH/SIN NATURE THROUGH OBEDIENCE

James 1:4 ESV

⁴And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may
be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

FULL EFFECT / TELEIOS / FULLY MATURE / FINISHED

YOU LACK NOTHING WHEN YOU REALIZE THAT YOU HAVE
NOTHING TO ADD TO WHAT GOD IS DOING
MATURE / NOT LACKING SPIRITUALLY

Romans 5:1-5 ESV

5 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. **2** Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. **3** Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, **4** and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, **5** and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

SUFFERING PRODUCES CHARACTER / DOKIME / PROVEN CHARACTER / TRIED AND TRUE / RIDE OR DIE

HOW DO I STAY GRATEFUL IN THE VALLEY?

HOW DO I MAKE IT THROUGH THE VALLEY AS FAST AS POSSIBLE? WHAT IS MY NEXT MOVE?

James 1:5 ESV

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

REPROACH / ONEIDIZO / HEAPED INSULTS / REBUKE / FIND FAULT

Matthew 7:7-8 ESV

7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. **8** For everyone who asks receives,

and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

ASK, SEEK, KNOCK....MORE AGGRESSIVE EACH TIME

James 1:5-8 ESV

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

WE MUST ASK BUT, IT IS NOT THAT WE JUST ASK, ITS HOW WE ASK

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE VALLEY?
DO YOU PRAY IN UNBELIEF?

SHARE ABOUT MARRIAGE FAITH WALK

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD

James 1:12 ESV

¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

THE BIRTH AND DEATH OF RELATIONSHIPS, TEMPTATION TO SIN, FALLING INTO SIN, REPENTENCE OF SIN, AND OVERCOMING TEMPTATION TO SIN ALL HAPPENS IN THE VALLEY

THE VALLEY MEARLY EXPOSES OUR STRENGTHS AND OUR SIN, GOD'S WORD SUSTAINS THE BELIEVER THROUGH THE THICKEST AND THE THINNEST OF LIFE.

OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD OVER SELF WILL PRESERVATION

Psalm 23:4-6 ESV

⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

forever.

EVEN THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE UNKNOWN, I WILL FEAR NOT, YOUR PRESENCE IS MY PROVISION, THE CONVICTION OF YOUR WORD COMFORTS ME AS IT SLAYS ME. YOU HAVE MADE ROOM FOR ME TO FELLOWSHIP WITH YOU THROUGH THE

SACRIFICE OF YOUR PERFECT SON, AND MY LORD, JESUS CHRIST. YOUR GRACE, OH GOD, LIKE AN UNSTOPPABLE RIVER OF LIFE, LIGHT, AND LOVE, WASHES OVER ME AND HEALS ME. AS MY SIN IS BROUGHT BEFORE ME, I DO NOT FEAR IT, I OWN IT. AS I REPENT, I BASK IN THE GLORY OF YOUR HOLINESS, FORGIVENESS, AND MAGNIFICENT SPLENDER, THE DEMONIC POWERS ASSIGNED TO DESTROY ME ARE FORCED TO SIT AND WATCH. YOUR HOLY SPIRIT FILLS, COVERS, AND GUIDES ME IN TO ALL TRUTH AND HOLY SANCTIFICATION. YOU HAVE BLESSED MY LIFE BEYOND MEASURE AND BECAUSE OF YOUR UNWAVERING FAITHFULLNESS AND LOVE, OH LORD, YOUR GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL BE IN FRONT, BEHIND, AND BESIDE ME FOR ETERNITY, AND I WILL BE FOUND IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP WITH YOU, OH LORD, MY FIRST LOVE, FOREVER AND EVER

AMEN