

## *Testings for Blessings*

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is pastor of Greater Grace World Outreach located in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens is also chancellor of Maryland Bible College & Seminary and host of the international Christian radio program "The Grace Hour." This booklet was created from a message preached by Pastor Stevens.

Pastor Stevens can be seen weekly on cable television stations throughout the United States. Call us for information regarding programming in your area.

*All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Difficulties can bring out the worst in some people and the best in others. The difference in a person's reaction stems from the resources that he has within.

For example, David (who later became a king) allowed the situation with Goliath to bring out all he had learned while caring for his father's sheep. He heard the taunts of the Philistines' giant and sprang into action. Taking five smooth stones, he ran straight toward the enemy and hurled a rock that smacked Goliath in the head. David triumphed and so did Israel. It was time of testing that brought about a great response and a great blessing for him and his people.

What made David so bold at that moment? It was all those moments in the fields where he had to keep watch and protect the sheep committed to his care. During those times, David meditated and prayed and worshipped and

served with all of his heart. The results were manifested when he was put into a test. Out of him came the resources of power and strength derived from his relationship with the Lord.

This booklet looks at our moments and seasons of testing and points us to a place where we can find help in our time of need. It will reveal that when a believer has the proper inner resources from God, he can face any test in a relaxed and confident manner.

*Chapter One*  
A LIFE OF CONTINUAL  
REJOICING

“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

“Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

“Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls” (1 Peter 1:6-9).

People have three inner resources that they tend to depend upon: sublimation, emotionalism, and the old sin nature. These are present in the genes derived from the first man, Adam. For example, pressures come and some people just

sit down and sublimate with seven hours of television a day. Others just hang out at restaurants and talk and talk and talk.

First Peter 1, however, speaks about the most beautiful deliverances that can happen to Christians. Look at this phrase in verse 6 of Chapter 1: “Wherein ye greatly rejoice....” This construction means that we can be constantly rejoicing, no matter what we find ourselves in the midst of.

“Well,” you say, “I can't do that!” You just revealed your dependence on Adam's inner resources. The problem is that this way of living is so painful. A person who lives this way gets so tired that he can hardly exist.

### ***Triumphant Exuberance***

First Peter 1:6 says that we are to be constantly rejoicing with a joy that expresses itself in triumphant exuberance. The Greek word for “rejoice” is *agalliao*, and it is one of my favorite words. It speaks of having an attitude of celebration within us. Believers have this great capacity to celebrate in anything we are doing or going through. You may be washing dishes or dusting the furniture. Whatever it is, you are just so thrilled because the doctrines within you are

working together to make your life a party.

Imagine a wife who lives like this in her home. Her husband arrives from work and sees what's going on and says, "Wow, you seem really happy today. What happened to you?"

"Nothing special," she says. "I am just relaxing in the plan of God. I read a booklet by some pastor who said that there can be a continual celebration—a party—in me because I am filled with God's nature."

This type of person is very special. Within, grace parties with mercy. Mercy has a party with love. Love has a party with forgiveness. Forgiveness has a party with fellowship. Fellowship then parties with godly power. At last, God's power has a party in that soul, revealing as He did with David and Goliath that Jesus Christ has conquered the devil.

The inner resources of the flesh are no longer in control. Defeated are sublimation and emotionalism and the flesh reacting with the old sin nature. Instead, the believer's life can be one of *agalliao*—continual rejoicing. Truth becomes his inner resource. There is a great illumination in his heart, and something beautiful happens.

## *Chapter Two*

# STOREHOUSES OF TRUTH

“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations” (1 Peter 1:6).

When I first started going to church, something began to happen within me. I probably did not realize it at first, but as I remained committed to the local assembly and church attendance, hearing the Word of God preached and studying the Bible, my soul began to store up something. That something is what we call categorical doctrine.

Surely, you have used a catalog of one sort or another. In those publications, merchandise is presented in an organized way. The clothing is in the clothing section of the book, the electronic items are grouped together in another part, and so on.

As your soul receives doctrine on a consistent basis, this doctrine becomes categorized.

Your heart is cataloging the truth so that your mind can make the references it needs in any given situation.

Another amazing thing happens as the soul becomes filled with categories. You will discover that what is in you begins to come out. Bitterness is no longer in there. You don't have anger because it is not in there anymore. The things that come out of you now are magnificent. Truth is being stored within for future tests. What you receive in studying the Word, in church services, and in rap sessions are all being categorized in your soul. All of these things go into storage. God leads you, and He feeds you exactly what you need when you go against Satan.

### ***Challenges to Momentum***

Let's say that God knows that Satan wants to make you sick—very sick perhaps. Satan starts his process, but God has already supplied you with what you need. By going to church, you were receiving truth that provided the resources of God. His resources sanctify your soul, setting you apart for God's purpose and making you ready for sanctified tests that will further promote you in His plan. You are made ready for brokenness as a result of being filled with the

Spirit of God.

This beautiful passage in 1 Peter describes something that happens to affect you for eternity. There is a present linear action at work, indicated in the Greek grammar. As we face momentum tests, truth is working inwardly. We don't have to confess, "Bad week. Bad day." We don't have to say that at all. Instead, we have the grace of God working from faith to faith to faith to faith. We experience this magnificent deliverance because we have been prepared for the tests with inner resources of God's nature.

These provisions become locked into our memories for the Holy Spirit to bring to our remembrance. We have a storehouse of truth—not just words, but the Word of God in categories of doctrine, quick and powerful, for the edifying of the saints and the tearing down of the enemy's strongholds (Hebrews 4:12; 2 Corinthians 10:4-8).

### *Chapter Three*

## SUBSTANCE FOR SUCCESS

“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

“Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

“Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls” (1 Peter 1:7-9).

“But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?” (Hebrews 1:13-14).

“The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them” (Psalm 34:7).

In 1 Peter 1:7, the word for “praise” in the Greek text is *epainos*. It refers to what goes on in the angelic realm as we go through the battles of this life.

Every believer has at least one angel assigned as his guardian as we go through the warfare that exists in this world system. These angels help us in the midst of the angelic contest as they battle the fallen demons. Your angels are ministers to you because of grace, and they are present to help you as you obey the Word of God.

*Epainos* means that your angel fights for you, slam dunking the demon counterpart that hates you and attacks you. Ancient scholars have written beautiful commentaries on this important aspect of our spiritual lives.

Picture it like this: Here I am, walking with Jesus Christ, living in the power of the Holy Spirit, and drawing upon the inner resources I have built up in advance through the present linear action of choosing to hear the Word of God. So I am walking along, and Satan's forces take aim, but my angel says to the demons, “Leave him alone!” Suddenly, the demons cannot do what they had planned to do. Instead, I am enabled to glorify God with a brand-new lin-

ear action that brings in the sanctificational provision of the Word of God (John 17:17).

### *Degrees of Glory*

Beyond this sanctificational provision, I enjoy victory in the momentum test. Furthermore, I continue to receive degrees of glory that will be revealed in heaven when I stand before God at the Bema Seat. That is where every believer will receive or suffer loss of rewards for all of eternity, based on how he appropriated God's provisions in time.

What we go through here in time is not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us. Really, we have no idea how much glory is being developed in us, in our ministry, during these difficult times on earth. I am so grateful for the great men of God who are laboring with me in spite of the opposition from the wicked one. One day, all will be revealed, and there we will have it! We will see the manifestation of the glory of God.

Glory is simply the reflection in substance of God's actual essence—His nature revealed in men. Degrees of glory are added to us as we progress through the tests that are designed to bring us blessings.

“Though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations.” This portion of 1 Peter 1:6 speaks of a “locative of sphere,” or area of influence. In the midst of these days of warfare, we have something more than inner peace. We have peace that is revealed. Yes, there is heaviness and manifold temptations, but by faith we greatly rejoice. Why? We know that testing brings blessing.

“Though now for a season” includes two Greek adverbs of time that speak of the extent of our suffering. “Now” (*arti*) refers to a very short time, just at this moment. A “season” (*oligon*) describes a longer period. This means that there are times when we may suffer short, very intense tests. Or, we may go through “seasons” that could mean several months of testing.

All of these testings serve a purpose, which is to lead us to blessings. A believer who is lacking God’s resources within will be overwhelmed by such tests until he comes to the end of himself.

A categorical-doctrine Christian pays the price to develop deep inner resources of doctrine through hearing and reading and studying the Word as much as he can (2 Timothy 2:15). These provisions of preparation preserve him

and help him pass the sanctificational testings in time, bringing eternal degrees of glory that will never fade.

## CONCLUSION

A time of testing may last for a day, for a month, or for a year. But, no matter how long it lasts, we can live in an attitude of rejoicing in Christ, enjoying a great party within our hearts. Satan may come against you. People may talk about you and attack you, but you will be having a party inside. Hell may be trying to wear you down, but the forces of Satan are the ones who will have to quit and go home.

This principle of rejoicing through godly inner resources really does a number on the demons. I can just see them hanging their heads as they drag themselves back before their master.

“How did it go?” the master asks.

“I don't think we want to try that for a while—at least, not with those people in that church.”

“Why?”

“Those people all go soul-winning. They are

constantly having Bible studies—teen-agers, women, men, students....”

“What do you suggest we do?”

“Find another group of people who aren't so prepared for warfare.”

“Very good. Now, do it!”

The demons run from people who understand that testing is for *our* sake. God's peace rules in our hearts as His Word supplies resources that never go bad. By setting our hearts on God in the hard times, we glorify Him as we manifest His character and nature in the situations we go through. So let's go forward with Christ no matter what. We will have all eternity to enjoy the glory of God formed in our lives through faith obedience, both now and for a season.