

The Process of Growth

Scripture(s): Romans 5:1-5

In our world, pain is something we are always trying to avoid. However, the myth of comfort without consequence is a lie that traps and compromises us. True Christian growth comes when we embrace struggling as a necessary part of the process.

Today's thought - Our struggles have a purpose that we can truly _____ in.

I. The first blessing that God creates through our struggles is _____. We begin to mature in our understanding of life when we stop _____ hard things.

James 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

II. The second blessing that God creates through our struggles is consistent _____. Godly character is formed through _____ use so repeatedly choose the Godly path.

III. The third blessing that God creates through our struggles is _____. Profound hope is the result of seeing God's _____ work in our lives.

Zechariah 13:7-9 7 "Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, And against the man, My Associate," Declares the LORD of hosts. "Strike the Shepherd that the sheep may be scattered; And I will turn My hand against the little ones. 8 "It will come about in all the land," Declares the LORD, "That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; But the third will be left in it .9 "And I will bring the third part through the fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' And they will say, 'The LORD is my God.'"

Our challenge: Rejoice when you _____ that your Jesus can stretch you to show His greatness in you.

How?

1. What hard spiritual, emotional, or personal tasks do you need to stop _____ and start seeing as God's task for you?

2. In what choices do you need to start asking, "What is the _____ choice?"

3. If Christ has saved you, in what area of your life do you next need to declare that God's way is _____ it?

September 18, 2022

"Love Is the Theme" 545

"Better Is One Day"

"All I Have is Christ"

* Pastoral Prayer & Time in the Word *

"Living for Jesus" 282