Faith Under Fire

Tony Mauck · 1 Peter 1:6–7

INTRODUCTION

- As has been advertised, we're going to be talking this morning about faith under fire.
- And then you discover over the passing of time, and not a very long time, hey, there's some challenges here.

1 Your Faith Tested by Fire

James 1:2–4; 1 Peter 1:6–7

- Consider it all joy. Brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.
- For a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials.
- The proof of your faith, being more precious than gold, which is perishable, even though tested by fire may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- Their real convictions about God and his word and their hope and about the risen Lord, those convictions are put to the test.

2 No External Pressure So Great That Faith Can't Survive

John 10:27–29

- There's something about the trials that can benefit us. They can strengthen our convictions, bolster our faith and confidence in God.
- While external pressures can negatively impact faith if we allow them to, all failures ultimately result from a problem within.
- So if my faith fails, it is not the result of external pressure being so great. It is my buckling under that pressure.
- Those who love Jesus keep his commandments, his sheep hear his voice, and those are the people that Satan cannot snatch out of God's hand.

3 The Severity of Temptation

Hebrews 11:25

- It could well be the severity of temptation with which you are beset. And because of the strong allure of that temptation, your convictions come under fire.
- In those moments, trust in God and confidence in his word and patience for your reward must win the day.
- I have a role to play in this world and among his people that involves self-denial and self-control.

4 People and Pain Can Cause a Crisis of Faith

2 Corinthians 4:7; 2 Corinthians 4:16–17

- People can cause a crisis of faith. People can strongly disappoint us.
- Pain can cause people to question the validity and value of their faith.
- We have this treasure in earthen vessels that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not of ourselves.
- Our momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.

5 A Rival in Our Affections for God

Luke 14:26–33; 2 Corinthians 4:18; 1 Peter 1:4

- Some object, or some person. That becomes a rival in our affections for God.
- If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters. Yes, and even his own life. He cannot be my disciple.
- God is a worthy object for first place in our affections. And God can so easily be relegated to a lower place.
- Because he is the only one who can bring immortality to you. It is only his things that are imperishable.

6 Everyone Who Does the Will of God Is My Family

Mark 3:21–35; Matthew 10:34–37

- When spiritually mature, brothers and sisters across the board, and elders of the flock that are highly respected, are telling you that there is a problem here. You might want to listen.
- But so often it's family first. And that's what Jesus is addressing here.
- Listen, everyone who does the will of God, that is my family. That relationship is first.
- Everyone who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me.
- Choosing to serve the Lord is not a one-time decision. But it is an ongoing walk of life.

THE CHALLENGE

We've got to keep coming back to that which is imperishable, that which is immortal, that which is a worthy object of our affection above everything else.

MY NOTES