



FAITH IN FRUSTRATING TIMES

John 16:1-14

Jesus - *"I have told you these things so that you won't abandon your faith. ² For you will be expelled from the synagogues, and the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God. ³ This is because they have never known the Father or me. ⁴ Yes, I'm telling you these things now, so that when they happen, you will remember my warning. I didn't tell you earlier because I was going to be with you for a while longer. ⁵ "But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. ⁶ Instead, you grieve because of what I've told you. ⁷ But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. ⁸ When He comes, He will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because people do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see Me no longer; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. ¹² "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me because it is from Me that He will receive what He will make known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from Me what He will make known to you."* (John 16:1-14)

- **As Christians, we can expect to face trouble and persecution in this world.**
 - Jesus - *"Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows."* (John 16:33)
 - Paul - *"Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."* (2 Timothy 3:12)
- **No matter what the challenges were, or who they came from, Jesus encouraged His disciples to remain faithful.**
- Jesus - *"I have told you these things so that you won't abandon your faith."* (John 16:1)
- **"Abandon" is the Greek verb "Scandalizo" from which we get the English words "scandal" and "scandalize" that mean "to give up one's faith" or "fall into sin."**
- **When troubles or persecution come we must avoid "giving up our faith."**
 - *"Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise."* (Hebrews 10:23)
 - **Without struggles we will never develop our spiritual muscles or our "spiritual strength."**

- *“In His kindness God called you to share in His eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, He will restore, support, and strengthen you, and He will place you on a firm foundation.”* (1 Peter 5:10)
- **When troubles or persecution come we must avoid “falling into sin.”**
 - *“The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure.”* (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- **Jesus intends for His followers to be prepared for whatever challenges we may face.**
 - Jesus - *“I’m telling you these things now, so that when they happen, you will remember My warning.”* (John 16:4)
- **What steps can we take to maintain our faith in the midst of frustrating times?**

We Can Have Faith In Frustrating Times When We:

TRUST IN THE PLANS OF GOD’S SON

- Jesus - *“But now I am going away to the One who sent Me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. Instead, you grieve because of what I’ve told you.”* (John 16:5-6)
- **Sometimes the Lord’s plans seem unreasonable to us.**
- *“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,’ says the Lord. ‘And My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so My ways are higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts.’”* (Isaiah 55:8-9)

Sometimes The Lord Allows Us To Go Through Troubles To:

- **DISCIPLINE US**
 - *“The Lord disciplines those He loves.”* (Hebrews 12:6)
- **DEEPEN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM**
 - *“We were crushed and completely overwhelmed, and we thought we would never live through it. In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we learned not to rely on ourselves, but on God . . .”* (2 Corinthians 1:8-9)
- **DEVELOP US**
 - *“We can rejoice when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us - they help us learn to endure. And endurance develops strength of character in us.”* (Romans 5:3-4)
- **When we learn to trust in the Lord and His plans we open ourselves up to experience the blessings of God.**
- *“God will not permit any troubles to come upon us, unless He has a specific plan by which great blessing can come out of the difficulty.”* – Peter Marshall
- *“We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.”* (Romans 8:28)
- **What plans has the Lord been revealing to me that I need to embrace?**

We Can Have Faith In Frustrating Times When We:

TRUST IN THE PURPOSES OF GOD’S SPIRIT

- Jesus - *“But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send Him to you.”* (John 16:7)
- **“Advocate” in the Greek is “Paracletos” - literally a person who acts as a spokesperson or representative of someone else’s policy, purpose, or cause; especially before a judge in a court of law.**
- The Holy Spirit is our Helper (John 14:26), Teacher (John 15:26), Defender (John 16:7), Convictor (John 16:8), Guide (John 16:13), Power Source (Acts 1:8) and Intercessor (Romans 8:26); and His purpose is to bring Godliness (Galatians 5:22-23) and Victory (Romans 8:6) to our lives.
- ***In what ways can the Holy Spirit help us when we’re dealing with “frustrating times”?***

The Holy Spirit Is Available To Bring:

- **CONVICTION TO OUR LIVES**

- Jesus - *“When He (the Holy Spirit) comes, He will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment.”* (John 16:8)
- **The phrase “prove the world to be in the wrong” reminds us that the Holy Spirit has come to bring “conviction” to our lives and others lives.**
- **We all need to experience Conviction regarding *Our Personal Sinfulness*.**
 - King David - *“When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long.”* (Psalm 32:3)
 - **The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin so that we may: 1) avoid it, 2) repent of it, and 3) be cleansed from it.**
 - David - *“Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, ‘I will confess my rebellion to the Lord.’ And You forgave me! All my guilt is gone.”* (Psalm 32:5)
- **We all need to experience Conviction regarding *Moral Righteousness***
 - *“In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.”* (Judges 17:6)
 - **While the world may have differing ideas of what is right and what is wrong, God has the final word on what is truly right and good.**
 - *“Your righteousness (O God) is everlasting, and Your law is true.”* (Psalm 119:142)
 - **God’s Word gives us an explanation of righteousness, Jesus gives us a picture of righteousness, and the Holy Spirit convicts us of righteousness.**
- **We all need to experience Conviction regarding *Eternal Justice*.**
 - *“Each of us will give a personal account to God.”* (Romans 14:12)
 - **The judgment of God brings encouragement to the righteous, and fear and warning to those who rebel against God.**
- **When the Holy Spirit brings conviction to our lives about our sin or a situation, we need to respond with repentance (if necessary) and trust in the Lord’s way and will for our lives.**

- **DIRECTION TO OUR LIVES**

- Jesus - *“When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future.”* (John 16:13)
- **The Bible tells us that the Lord speaks to us through: 1) The Scriptures (Psalm 119:105), 2) His Saints (Proverbs 15:22, 24:6), 3) Certain Situations (Revelation 3:7), and and through His Spirit.**
- *“The Holy Spirit said, ‘Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.’”* (Acts 13:2)
- **The Holy Spirit most often speaks to us in a still, small voice (1 Kings 19:11-13) that requires attentive listening.**
- Jesus - *“He will bring Me glory by telling you whatever He receives from Me. All that belongs to the Father is Mine; this is why I said, ‘The Spirit will tell you whatever He receives from Me.’”* (John 16:14-15)
- **The Holy Spirit will never lead us in the wrong direction, and following His leadership brings peace and victory to our lives.**
- *“Letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.”* (Romans 8:6)
- **What are some life areas where I need to receive some conviction or direction from God’s Spirit?**
- Jesus - *“I have told you these things so that you won’t abandon your faith.”* (John 16:1)
- **Maintaining a strong faith in God is the key to having peace and victory in our lives; and we will have that faith when we are led and empowered by God’s Spirit.**
- *“As soon as they were freed, Peter and John returned to the other believers and told them what the leading priests and elders had said. When they heard the report, all the believers lifted their voices together in prayer to God . . . After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.”* (Acts 4:23-24, 31)
- **No matter what challenges or troubles we face in life, we have the Holy Spirit as our Advocate to defend us, our Director to lead us, and our Power Source to enable us to live a vibrant and victorious life.**
- **What is the Lord primarily saying to me through this message?**