

**Sermon Series: *Back to Basics* Sermon Title: *Why We Rejoice in Trials* Scripture: Selected Passages** Pastor Chris Fritz Sunday, August 9, 2020

**INTRODUCTION**

*1 Peter 1:3-9 -*

*“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds…” (James 1:2)*

*“I sought the Lord, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!” (Psalm 34:4-8)*

*“…He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Sure He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.” (Isaiah 53:2b-4)*

*“…who for the JOY that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2b)*

**I. JOURNEY TO JOY!**

**1) God’s love never exempts us from the wilderness.**

“Amazing Grace”

*Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come,*

*'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

*“In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33b)*

*“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. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad WHEN His glory is revealed.” (1 Peter 4:12-13)*

**2) The wilderness is undeniably hard.**

David (1 Samuel 27:1); Job (Job 10:1); Paul (2 Corinthians 1:8-11)

**3) There’s more happening in the wilderness than just pain.**

*Deuteronomy 8:2-3 -*

**4) The wilderness is an opportunity for growth in love, joy, faith, and contentment.**

*Matthew 3:16-4:4 -*

*“When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly.” (1 Peter 2:23)*

*“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” (Romans 8:18)*

**In the face of trials…**

1) Be quick to go to God in prayer.

2) Be quick to listen to, sympathize with, and pray for others.

3) Strive to trust God and His Word more than you trust your feelings.

4) By faith, choose to believe that God knows what is best for His children.

5) Look to and follow the example of Jesus, who continually entrusted Himself to His Father.

**Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application…**

1. In 1st Peter 1:3-9, what specifically are we to rejoice in?
2. Why are we so easily tempted to grumble and complain? What’s at the heart of this sin?
3. Who can always understand and sympathize with the trials and difficulties we face? Why?
4. Can you think of any verses that teach and explain the certainty of trials and hardships? How can these verses actually be an encouragement to us?
5. Based on 2nd Corinthians 1:8-11, what did Paul learn from his afflictions? How did he respond?
6. How did Jesus respond to the trials and temptations He faced? He can we follow His example?
7. What trials are you currently facing? How would God want you to respond to them today?