

3/6/22

AM 35
FB 11

Sermon – Trial by Fire

Scripture 1 Peter 1

Main Message- Bring a smile to the Lord by resisting temptation.

In searching for a message to bring each week, sometimes the Lord gives me something neat and exciting. Those are fun and novel to me as much as anyone. Sometimes my message is developed by personal experience and sometimes through observation of the world in which we live. RARELY, do I ever create a message that based on an individual need and when I do, it is because that person is a seeker and perhaps not yet a believer. Sometimes, I just throw my hands up in the air and say, I'm just going to read God's word and weave a message throughout that guided by the Holy Spirit. Today it turns out that I'm going to do a bit of all of them blended into one message. FUN for me but not for thee!

We live in a world filled with temptation both from internal and external origin.

There are forms of external temptation that can come at us often and continually such that we may not even understand them to be temptations. We are often able to deceive ourselves thinking they are not. Do not fall into that trap. By the way, if you ask me if something might be a temptation, my answer will always be YES, simply because you asked.

Nevertheless, it is my personal experience that our internal thoughts and desires brought about by our own flesh is the greatest challenge and a trial which we will battle for a lifetime. Here are some of those temptations: **Laziness** (procrastination) in all of its forms, **LUST** – and that covers everything from food to unwholesome sexual desire. (we are to die to self), **Fear** - both specific and generalized, **GOSSIP** – sharing which need not be shared. All of these and many others are attached to one another making the battle over one's flesh so very difficult. It's a spiderweb of sin within ourselves.

Read 1 Peter 1

Overcoming temptation is truly Trial by Fire. Succumb and you will be burned. But the flesh is strong and it wants what it wants.

The goal is clear, be HOLY because God is HOLY. There is nothing in here about it being easy. Just as vs 6 says, we are in a *heaviness through manifold temptations*. In some Bible versions it is translated as GRIEF. Our flesh is not getting what it wants, so yes the temptation causes grief, and our flesh right along with it. OVERCOMING that grief and denying the flesh brings about a reward.

Every battle ^{won} ~~one~~ is noted by God and brings us closer to HIM.

This is how we finish strong,

I want you, and me to finish this race strong. Everyone of us has a place of temptation to overcome. WE have all lost the battle occasionally. Next time, gain victory, risk denying the flesh and bask in the smile from Heaven above.