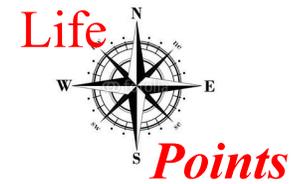


November 12, 2017

Different

Different Faith In Trials

Pastor Rick Rufenacht



1 Peter 1:3-12

We embrace Trials.

James 1:2

Trials develop our faith

Isa 48:10 Ps 66:10-12

Trials move us closer to God

Heb 11:1 1 Peter 1:8 -10 Jas 1:12

We Know That Jesus lives.

Mt 28:20 1 john 5:4-5

Our future is Set

1 peter 1:9-12 Rom 8: 29- 34 2 Cor 4:17

Some days life is easy. Other days life seems impossible. The kids are fighting, overdue bills are piling up, work deadlines are looming and the doctor's office calls with a prognosis in which you weren't prepared.

Why do you think God doesn't miraculously keep you from experiencing trials? Read Deut 8:14 and 2 Chr 20:33.

When life is perfect, we get complacent. Think of a time in your life when you've allowed your heart to become complacent. What was happening in your life at that point? Why is it easier to dismiss God's presence in the good times?

Trials force us to acknowledge our lack of control over our lives and our complete dependence on God. The more dependent we are on God, the more aware we are of His presence in our lives.

Have you experienced a trial that drew you closer to God? What caused you to move closer to God instead of moving away from Him?

Read Job 1 and 13:15. Job realized that his life was a very small part of something grander than he ever imagined. At that point, he stopped questioning God's trustworthiness. How do you initially react in times of trials? Are you like Job? Or do you react differently? How could you react to be more like Job?

What's one way God used a difficult situation to show you something new about Himself?

What is one area of your life that seems overwhelming right now? What do you want God to show you about Himself in this situation?

Life is not a WYSIWYG! Those familiar with computers may understand this term, an acronym for "What you see is what you get." In the early days of word processing, you could not see on the computer screen exactly what your printed document would look

like. Underlining, bold-facing, and italics were created by inserting control codes, but only the codes appeared on the screen rather than the actual underlining, bold-facing, or italics. You could not see on the screen what you would get.

Read Luke 16:19-31.

The rich young man, like the money-loving Pharisees (Luke 16:14), thought life was a WYSIWYG; that is, he assumed life in eternity would be like life on earth. The rich man expected to continue to live in perpetual comfort and as he had on earth. Like the Pharisee, he wrongly assumed men like his servant Lazarus would spend eternity in eternal misery.

Are you a WYSIWYG person or are you able to look past your current situation to see what awaits you for eternity? What is keeping you from seeing your promise of eternity? Why do you think that it is easier at times to see things in the present?

God is a promise maker and a promise keeper.

God is the same yesterday, today and forever. He does not change. The way God fulfills promise after promise in the Bible shows us that we can trust Him to come through today. God's past provision is the best predictor of His future faithfulness.

As you look back on your life, how has God kept His promises? What's one promise you are still waiting for God to keep? How has knowing Jesus given you hope that the best is yet to come?

This week, commit your worries and disappointment to God in prayer. Tell Him and show Him you trust Him.