

Faith from Praise

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory – I Peter 1:7-8

Read that verse above one more time. It's amazing to realize that the trials of our faith involve praise. We hear the popular saying "praise God in all things," yet how many of us are able to put that into action in hard times?

God speaks to me in my own voice and sometimes I'm amazed at what He asks me to do. One day I heard from a young woman I'd be working with that she had just had a late term abortion. For weeks we had e-mailed and I thought the threat of abortion was long past. Her news hit me like a hot poker for she had been more than 24 weeks pregnant. God's instant remark to my heart was to praise him for this child's death.

My first reaction was to be horrified at the thought of praising him for something so horrible. Yet as He spoke to me that day, He made it clear that He had a plan I knew nothing about. When He conceived that child, He knew the death it would experience. In praising Him, my faith in His almighty will would be released.

While it took most of the afternoon, I was eventually able to surrender my horror to Him and praise Him. It's clear I may never be privy to His plan in this young woman's life, but I know His will to be sovereign even in death.

The hardest time to praise is during our darkest hours. Yet is in these trials of our faith that God expects our praise! The next time you are in the midst of a trial, reach out to God with praise. It's a clear way to mix Satan up and allow God's power through your faith to flow into the situation.