

August 10, 2008

Sermon Series: **Defining Our Faith**



Sola Fide
Justification by Faith Alone!
A Life of Faith Part 2
We Exult in our Tribulations

Introductory Thoughts

As many of our thought will be tuned into the Olympics taking this place have you ever wondered about the life of Christians in China?

Faith in God

What happens to make a person a Christian?

The Role of Afflictions in Our Christian Life

1. *They test our faith and prepare us for glory*

2 Corinthians 12:9-10; Acts 14:22; Jhn. 15:20; 2 Cor. 4:17; 1 Thess. 3:3; 2 Tim. 3:12 ;
1 Pet. 4:19

2. *We are to “exult” in them.*

2 Cor. 8:1-2; Rom. 8:18; Gal. 5:22-23

Grace Works Through Truth

4 Truths

1. *Tribulation brings about perseverance.*

Jas. 1:12

2. *Perseverance brings about proven character.*

3. *Proven Character brings about hope*

4. *That hope that is inspired by proven character will not disappoint us, because God gives us the experience of His love in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.*

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God Means for Christians to Have Assurance

Eph. 1:13-14; Rom. 8:16; 1 Jhn. 3:24, 4:13

Sermon HD Questions

1. Do you have assurance that you are truly born again? What evidence do you see in your own life to give you that assurance?
2. Do you think that God wants true believers to go on throughout life worrying about whether they are really born again, or to have firm assurance that they are His people? (see 1 John 5:13)
3. Have you seen a pattern of growth in your Christian life over time? Are you trusting in your own power to keep on believing in Christ, or in God's power to keep your faith active and alive?
4. If you have doubts about whether you are truly born again, what is it in your life that is giving reason for those doubts? What would Scripture encourage you to do to resolve those doubts (see 2 Peter 1:5-11; Matt. 11:28-30; John 6:37).
Have you known people, perhaps in your church, whose "fruit" is always destructive or divisive or harmful to the ministry of the church and the faith of others? Do they have very much influence, perhaps even positions of leadership in the church? Do you think that an evaluation of the fruit of one's life and influence on others should be a qualification for church leadership? Is it possible that people would profess agreement with every true Christian doctrine and still not be born again? What are some more reliable evidences of genuine conversion other than intellectual adherence to sound doctrine?

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