

"If I Perish, I Perish"
Esther Study - Lesson 6 (Esther Ch. 4)
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INTRO: Synopsis and Esther's quandary

I. What does God want us to learn?

- **TRUTH: God providentially uses confusion and chaos to develop F_____ in his people.**
- **TRUTH: The best option always comes from God.**

God can be trusted to secure His purposes even in the face of D_____ C_____.

KEY: He often grows our faith and commitment by giving us some seemingly impossible part in bringing about his purposes.

- **TRUTH: Identification with God and His purposes involves C_____ and R_____.**

"I will go... and if I perish, I perish."

II. Developing Spiritual Resilience

A. Knowledge of God

- Paul: "*For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I K_____ whom I have believed, and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have E_____ to Him until that day*" (2 Tim. 1:12).
- Job: "...arose, tore his clothes, shaved his head, fell to the ground and W_____" (Job 1:20)
- Supernatural truths can we know if we are children of God:
 - We know that we are the children of God and that we have eternal life (1 Jn. 5:13)
 - We know that we are destined for G_____ (Rom. 8:29)
 - We know that now we see through a glass darkly (1 Cor. 13:12) but then face to face
 - We know that during this life God intends for His children to walk the path Christ walked... (humiliation); born in Bethlehem, a carpenter, people not recognizing or accepting Him – "He came unto His own, and His own received him not" (John 1:11)
 - We know He is P_____ us through life's experiences, particularly trials and adversity (Phi. 1:6; Rom. 8:28-29)
 - We know we are to cooperate with the working of His Spirit in transforming us by renewing our mind according to His truth before our ultimate transformation to glory (Rom. 12:2)
 - We know that nothing can separate us from the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:35)
 - We know that He is preparing a place for us and will come again to receive us unto Himself. "*Let not your heart be troubled*" (John 14:1-2)
 - We know our ultimate glory is to be ushered in at Christ's manifestation (2 Pet. 3:10)
 - We know that we shall see Him as He is and, wonder of wonders...
 - *We know we shall be C_____ in a moment to be like Him* (1 Cor. 15:21-52; 1 Jn. 3:2)
- *THE PURPOSES OF GOD WILL STAND, substantiated by His C_____ and P_____.
This reality and provide a F_____ F_____ [bedrock] for a living FAITH that responds to CALAMITY with *courage* and *resolution*.

B. Being found in Him (Phil. 3:9) – No "Identity Crisis" here!

C. Running the Race (1 Cor. 9:24-27) requires D_____ and K_____ of the course.

III. Divinely Designed STAIRWAY FOR S _____ (2 Pet. 1:1-11)

A. God's Part: "Everything we need for life and godliness..." (v. 3-4)

"True Knowledge" = S _____ D _____ !

B. Our Part: Building on the Foundation (v. 5-10); requires D _____ (v. 5, 10)

THE FOUNDATION

- ⇒ **Faith** – committing to obey God, trusting Him (an action word); faith for salvation, faith for an obedient walk (Heb. 11). *Faith is believing the Word of God and acting upon it no matter how I feel, knowing God promises a good result.*
- ⇒ **Moral excellence** – desiring to please God, moral excellence (Prov. 31:10-31; Ruth 3:11)
- ⇒ **Knowledge** – learning God's way, applying the Bible to everyday life (Ps. 119:9-11, 115; 2 Pet. 3:18; Rom. 12:1,2)

HARD WORK

- ⇒ **Self-Control** – determining to live by God's Word; temperance; developing moderation in all areas of life; bringing self under the control of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:23; 1 Tim. 4:7; Prov. 16:32)
- ⇒ **Perseverance** – continuing until you get desired results; clinging to Jesus with all your might for as long as it takes (Rom. 5:3,4; Eph. 6:18).

THE PAYOFF

- ⇒ **Godliness** – *habitually* responding in Christlike character; growing to be more like Jesus, disciplined in Godliness (Rom. 8:28, 29; Phil. 3:8-14)
- ⇒ **Brotherly Kindness** – acting toward others as Christ would; kind, tenderhearted and forgiving (Eph. 4:32; 1 Jn. 2:9-11, 3:14-17).
- ⇒ **Love** – serving God and others motivated by *agape* – the highest possible motivation; God's love shining in us and through us because He IS love (1 Cor. 13:13; Matt. 22:36-40)

IV. THE PRIZE

A. Transformation/freedom from enslavement to sin (v. 4)

B. Usefulness/Fruitfulness/Spiritual Growth/Discernment (v. 8)

PRODUCTIVITY = "Effectively stewarding my gifts, talents, time, energy, and enthusiasm for the good of others and the glory of God" - Tim Challies. Note: *qualities are I _____ !*

C. Assurance of calling, election (v. 9, 10)

Warning: Failure (v. 9) => lack of assurance.

"Failure to **diligently** pursue these spiritual virtues produces spiritual A _____. This person may be saved and possess all the blessings, but due to their **spiritual blindness** can have no confidence about their profession of faith, and will live in D _____ and F _____."

D. Stability (v. 10) – "never stumble"

E. G _____ ! (v. 11) An *abundant entrance* into the E _____ K _____

"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:20)

This is our high calling & the C _____ of our faith!

POA: Does knowing these things ignite your **courage** and **resolution** regarding embracing God's purposes for your life? Can you say along with Esther, "If I perish, I perish"? Is union with Christ your greatest treasure and most precious identity?

There is no greater JOY this side of heaven than being an instrument in the Redeemer's hands!