

## Daily Devotional, January 28, 2021

***...."who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1:5-7 (NIV)***

There has probably never been a time since Jesus' resurrection that the people of God were free from suffering. In the United States, our suffering often has been limited to such things as being left out of events, activities, and friendships because we were believers. We may have been mocked or ridiculed. But, for us, it has typically not risen to the level of physical beatings, confiscation of personal property, imprisonment, or death. Yet right now, and in large numbers throughout our lifetime, God's people have suffered these kinds of persecution.

I think we all find thoughts of such things to be frightening, and we may wonder how our faith would fare under such difficult testing. Peter, who himself suffered such trials, gives us this promise, "(you) who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time." Peter possibly knew this very well, in part, because of his failure at Jesus' trial on the night Jesus was betrayed.

If you remember, Peter had professed he would never desert Jesus. Jesus responded by telling Peter he would not only tremble and shy away but would deny Jesus three times. But Jesus had also given Peter a promise, "But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." (Luke 22:32) Even in the face of severe failures, Peter's faith did not fail, and he did turn again. Not because Peter held onto faith himself, but because Jesus prayed that Peter's faith would not fail. Once Peter returned, he again walked in that faith and was used greatly by God.

It seems this must be the type of faith that all of us who have become Christians have received. A faith that guards us in the midst of trials, no matter how severe those trials are – a faith sustained by the prayers of our Great High Priest – a faith that keeps us to the end. And that is a hopeful thought when we consider this trying year that we have just endured and contemplate the possibility of future trials. May our faith and our trust in Him never fail, as Jesus' love and support for us never fails.

***Prayer: Lord Jesus, you came into the world as one of us, and suffered the same as we do. As I go through the trials of life, help me to realize that you are with me at all times and in all things; that your loving grace surrounds me for eternity. In the security of your support, I pray. Amen.***