

DON'T WASTE YOUR TRIALS

James 1:1-8 / 13-15

- Pastor Kedo Peseyie

The Greek word “*peirismous*” is used in v.2 to mean *trials*, and in v.13 to mean *temptations*.

A FEW TRUTHS ABOUT TEMPTATION: (vv.13-15)

(1) Temptations are not from God, but He allows them to give us an opportunity to grow stronger in victory and mature in faith. God can turn evil into good, and with God’s help, we can use temptations to our advantage to grow toward perfection and maturity.

(2) To be tempted is not the same as sinning. Jesus was tempted (Hebrews 4:15, 1 Corinthians 10:13), but He did not sin. When we are tempted, if we start condemning ourselves for even having such thoughts, we have already been defeated. But we need to acknowledge and recognize the temptations, so that we can cast it aside and block it from turning into sin.

WEAPONS AGAINST TRIALS: (vv.2-8)

(1) Get More Joy, v.2.

To someone who is undergoing severe trials, these words “*Count it pure joy...*” can be offensive. But this is not joy arising out of our circumstances, but pure joy coming from God. This is *pure* joy undiluted by circumstances, human prejudices or expectations, or even tainted by sin. God gives His people such joy. “*Joy, which is the cheap publicity of the pagan, is the gigantic secret of the Christian.*” -GK Chesterton. A sermon outline by Jonathan Edwards on Christian Happiness goes like this: A Christian can be truly happy because: (i) All the bad things will turn out for good. (ii) All the good things will last forever. (iii) The best things are yet to come.

(2) Get More Understanding, v.3.

For we *know* that the testing of our faith will make us “*perfect, mature, lacking nothing*”. We can have this assurance only when we have attained a deeper level of understanding of God’s character (that He never fails), His word (that His promises are true), that He is involved and interested in our situation.

Abraham’s faith was not a blind leap of faith into the darkness. He had already encountered God long enough to *know* that when God says “go” or “do it”, God can be trusted. We all need this deeper level of understanding that comes from the knowledge of God and His Word, and experience of His greatness and faithfulness. Abraham and James had both knowledge of God and experience of His greatness. Therefore they could say, “We count it all joy... while God is making us perfect, we will lack nothing”.

(3) Get More Submission, v.4.

Submission is not easy, but without our surrender and willing submission to God’s good plan and will, God cannot do His good work in us. God works in three different ways: First He works *for* us to give us salvation; second, He works *in* us to bring about our sanctification; and then He works *through* us to bless others and bring people to Him. Without submission, we will miss God’s plan and purpose for us.

(4) Get More Wisdom, v.5-8.

A lady who was undergoing severe trials in her life prayed, “Give me wisdom so that I will not waste my trials.” This is the meaning of James 1. Without wisdom from God, we cannot trust Him fully, or even do and say the right thing. And when we pray for wisdom, God just gives it to use without finding fault. This is a prayer He will surely answer. But we should not be double-minded. A double minded man is always wavering between faith and doubt. He is not sure whether he hates sin and loves God; he is not sure whether he is ready to fully surrender to God’s will. He has tasted the goodness of God, but still wants to enjoy sin for some more time. Such a man can be sure of only one thing, i.e., he will never receive anything from God.



CHRIST THE POWER OF GOD AND THE WISDOM OF GOD

City Church

SUNDAY SERVICE

- Leader : Oponlumi Esaca
- Speaker : M. Odyuo
- Ushers : Allen & Kaikhu
- Flower : Sarah Ritse

Praise & Worship

Welcome & Announcement

Reading: Psalm 51:10-17

- Mass Prayer (i) Your personal concerns
- (ii) Church ministry concerns

Offertory

Hymn **No.140** : 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Message

Hymn : Redeemed

Benediction

Everyone is invited to the tea fellowship after the worship service.

VISION statement of the City Church:

City Church seeks to honor and worship Jesus Christ as Lord and the only God; and to build the Body of Christ (The Church) with all who love Him as disciples, proclaiming Him as the Savior to all nations.

AIMS of the City Church:

Worship: *To Worship God and exalt His name together as a Church.*

Fellowship: *To build the body of Christ with all who love Him through mutual sharing, help and growth.*

Evangelism: *To witness for Christ both by proclamation and by lifestyle so as to cause others to experience God’s great salvation.*

Discipleship: *To establish members as disciples of Jesus Christ through systematic Bible Studies and teaching and equip them for effective service.*

Mission: *To send out people in obedience to God’s call and command to reach the un-reached for Christ.*

PRAYER

- Pray for the mission outreach endeavors City Church is involved in:
 1. **Love Burma Mission:** Pray for the office staff based in Tuensang, and all the Health Workers, Wardens, Cooks and Field Supervisor based in Burma.
 2. **NCF Hyderabad:** Pray for Pastor Zajamo, Naro and their children.
 3. **Bhutan:** Pray for Kunsang, Aren and their Children. Pray for the new church they recently started in Jaigaon.
 - Pray that God’s blessings, protection and favour would rest upon all of them, and for the extension of God’s Kingdom in these ministries.
- Pray for our church building project. We thank God that the work has started, and we look forward in faith knowing that our God can provide for all our financial needs. Pray that God will touch the hearts of believers far and near to participate in building His Church, and the extension of His Kingdom.

PSALM 51: 10-17

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will turn back to you.

Save me from bloodguilt, O God,
the God who saves me,

and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart,
O God, you will not despise.

Sunday, April 23th, 2017

Tithes: ₹ 42,860

Offering: ₹ 8,520

Mission: ₹ 500

Nagamese: ₹ 262

Total: ₹ 52,142

Announcements

- Women fellowship every Thursday at 5pm.
- Women Department outing for this year is on 13th May at Dzülakie.
- To avail transportation for Sunday service, contact Myingthungo Humtsoe @ 9402936043/ 8794172936.
- Children's choir practise every Saturday at 4pm.
- Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study, 5pm - 6pm.

citychurchkoh@gmail.com, Facebook: "City Church Kohima".

Contact: 0370-2242687 / 7085120374

Nagamese Fellowship

Act of worship (Romans 12:1)

Offer our body. What is offering?

- Something given to God as an act of worship, to make the relationship between God and humans right again.
- Jesus offered His life on the Cross and obeyed His father.
- Jesus said, those who love me will obey my teaching (John 14:23)

What is sacrifice?

- Obedience is better than sacrifice (1Sam. 15:22)
- An offering given to God. In the Old Testament God commanded the people to pay for their sins by sacrificing the blood of cattle, lambs, goats, doves or pigeons. These sacrifices were pictures of Jesus coming as a once-for-all sacrifice for sinners.
- To offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God-this is our true and proper worship (Rom 12:1).

- Robert

Sunday School

The **Parents-Teachers Fellowship** will be coming Sunday, i.e. 7th **May**. Meeting will be held right after the Morning worship service. All parents are kindly requested to attend without fail, as this will enhance the ministry of the Sunday School.

Notes: