

SERIES: The Beauty of Becoming

TITLE: Strong to the Finish

SPEAKER: Pastor Bob Marvel

PASSAGE: James 1:2-4; Romans 5:3-4; 2 Cor 1:8-10
6:4-5, 11:25-29; Acts 16:25; Heb 4:15-16, 10:23-25; I
Pet 2:21; I Cor. 15:58; 2 Tim 4:6-8; Galatians 6:9

DATE: March 4-5, 2023



MESSAGE TAKEAWAY

Nothing will expose our character like hardship.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- When you think of the people you admire the most, what are some of their best character qualities? Have you witnessed them joyfully persevering? What about yourself—would you say you've ever rejoiced while enduring something difficult? (See James 1:2-4 and Romans 5:3-4.)
- How is our character exposed, for good or for bad, when we face hardships? Please share if you've ever been able, like the Apostle Paul, to "live the blues, but sing the praises?" (See Acts 16:25.)
- Have you heard, or ever said, "God won't give you more than you can handle"? Pastor Bob said that isn't in the Bible. But the Bible does say in 1 Corinthians 10:13, "He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear." Why is it important to have an accurate theology of suffering? (See 2 Corinthians 1:8-10; 4:7-10)
How can an inaccurate theology of suffering damage someone's faith?
- Do you feel you have a supportive community of friends and family that help and encourage each other, especially when someone is going through hardships?
- How does knowing that Jesus suffered for you, encourage you to persevere when you are also suffering? (See Hebrews 4:15-16 and 12:2.)
- When you think about suffering, how does the promise of eternal glory shape how you choose to deal with it? Have you ever considered hardships as "light and momentary troubles?" (See 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.)
- What thoughts and feelings arise when you read Galatians 6:9, 2 Timothy 4:6-8 and Matthew 25:21 and think of the eternal glory and rewards awaiting you?

NEXT STEPS:

This week take a step to reflect on a recent hardship and how God has strengthened your character through your situation. Write it out as a prayer asking God to help you persevere with His strength.