

Spiritual Depression: Its Causes and Cure by Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones
Chapter 16: Trials
1 Peter 1:3-7

1Pe 1:3-7 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, (5) who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (6) In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, (7) that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

Lloyd-Jones – “Indeed the condition of the Christian as described in the New Testament seems always to include these two elements and at one and the same time we find that these Christian people of whom the apostle writes are ‘greatly rejoicing’ and are also ‘in heaviness’”.

Review of last week’s lesson on depression related to a lack of discipline.

Those Christians who fail to obey 2 Peter 1:5-7 become barren, unfruitful, shortsighted, blind, forget that they have been forgiven, and eventually stumble. What could contribute to a Christian getting into this state. Some have a wrong view of faith and think that faith should be enough in their sanctification. Others dwell in laziness and procrastination, failing to order and manage their lives properly. Others allow themselves to be thwarted with various distractions. We are enjoined to add to our faith moral excellence that leads to good works, and to this virtue we are to add the knowledge of God, and to knowledge, self-control, and to self-control, perseverance, and to perseverance godliness, and to godliness, brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness, love for all, first to the Lord, then to His saints, and then to those in the world. Those who by grace apply themselves to the Lord and His Word, He promises that you will not be barren or unfruitful; you will remember that you are forgiven; and “an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (2 Pet 1:11) Where will we get such strength to obey the Lord? Peter reminds us of what we are, those who are partakers of the divine nature through the Lord’s marvelous grace. This gracious blessing was provided through the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the one who by His mercy caused us to escape the corruption that is in the world through lust. Since this is so, now we can give all diligence to our sanctification, because we have been bought and justified by our Lord Jesus Christ and given His Spirit to apply ourselves daily to this growth.

Chapter 16: Trials

1. What two paradoxical concepts are realities in the life of a Christian according to the passage given for this study?

2. Name another passage which indicates the same paradox.

3. If within the Christian life, we find both of these paradoxical situations, what could cause depression to overcome the believer?

4. According to Lloyd-Jones, what would be a cultic type response to trials?

5. What is it that produces such “heaviness” in a Christian according to our major text?

6. If we are to go on rejoicing in the midst of trials, state 3 general principles that Lloyd-Jones expounds to help us consider why there would be a need for us to be tried as we are.

Give 4 examples to further elaborate on the first principle.

7. What are the three encouragements that Lloyd-Jones states to help us overcome these manifold trials?