



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Greatness – Faith Through Trials (1 Peter 4:12)

MARCH 2, 2022

Dave DePue, Pastor / Kansas Capitol Commission / dave.depue@capitolcom.org

Leaders have a faith that strengthens themselves and fortifies others around them (Hebrews 11:1). There are inner trials which threaten our ability to live, to thrive, and to lead. Helen Keller was blind and deaf yet rose to world acclaim for her wisdom.

Some rise to greatness in a world of hostility and war. A Hebrew teenager named Daniel was captured, trained, and sent to work in the capital of Babylon. God gave the boy great vision, and Daniel rose to serve as chief advisor to a succession of three kings over the next sixty years.

*Others are buffeted by Satan and suffer much loss although sustained and empowered by God. A young unschooled fisherman named Peter was being trained for leadership. Satan asked God for permission to sift him as wheat (Luke 23:31). Peter experienced great persecution over the next thirty years and was martyred. However, he lived longer than most men in first century Jerusalem and has been acclaimed as an early leader of the 2000-year church age. **How have you been an overcomer in life?***

INTRODUCTION

Israel was an occupied country during the ministry of Jesus and His Apostles. They were persecuted through the administrations of puppet kings and Roman emperors up through Nero in 68 A.D. Peter wrote this letter to Christians and Jewish people in churches scattered over the Roman Empire. His purpose was to.

1). Remind them that those who believe were chosen by God for salvation and life eternal (Romans 8:33).
2). Show them how to live during their season of life.
3). Encourage them through trials and tribulation.
What has been your source of hope during earlier times of difficulty and testing?

LIVING IN HOPE

1 Peter 2:9 You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (NIV)

LIVING HONORABLY

1 Peter 2:13-15 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. (NIV)

Christ bore the sins of believers as He suffered our punishment. He was submissive to God the Father. We must live as obedient citizens during our time in this world so that God will be honored. A husband is admonished to honor his wife so that his prayers will not be hindered. The wife is to honor her husband with the inner beauty of a gentle spirit, which is precious in sight of God. **How have you honored another person who seemed not to deserve honor?**

LIVING IN EXPECTATION

1 Peter 4:12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. (NIV)

Jesus explained that there are sin and death in this world and people suffer (Luke 13:4). He cautioned the people to make peace with God while they had time left in this life. Peter here is explaining suffering from persecution. Satan may be the source, or it may be from the actions of other people. God allows this in the life of a believer for: 1) purging, 2) testing, and 3) cleansing. The saint should pray and discern his condition. Perhaps personal action is required. God's presence showers strength and endurance on His children during times of suffering (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). **Can you recall a time when God carried you through a testing of your faith or a trial in life?**

A PRAYER

Almighty God: Thank You for promising me eternal life and strength for each day. Please keep me in Your presence during my trials. Bless me with an extra portion of wisdom, discernment, and endurance. I pray in the name of Jesus---Amen!