**Faith that Won’t Quit**

*1 Peter 1:3-9*

**Introduction**

1. Christians are children of God with the hope of an incredible inheritance – **1 Peter 1:3-4** – surpasses anything imaginable in value – not earthly.
2. God keeps the Christian for the realization of that hope by faith – **v. 5**
3. That faith must be genuine, so while God keeps us by faith He also allows our faith to be tested by fire – **vv. 6-8**
4. A faith that does not quit under trial, does not faith, will see its end – **v. 9** – the salvation God is keeping us for.
5. Faith is not a one-time thing but is a constancy of life. Faithfulness is what God desires of His people.
6. Faith that Quit
7. Saul’s Unlawful Sacrifice
   1. **1 Samuel 13:5-7** – After Jonathan attacked the garrison of the Philistines, they gathered together to fight with Israel.
      1. This great number of Philistines was intimidating.
      2. Even the great king Saul cowered at Gilgal.
   2. **1 Samuel 13:8** – Saul waited for Samuel to come with instructions from the Lord concerning sacrifices in this time of need.
      1. Reference to **1 Samuel 10:8** – evidently not a consideration of a one-time event. (Emphasis on ***“TILL I COME”*** – even if it be longer than 7 days)
      2. ﻿“The idea would be that such a gathering would be in the face of a national need, and God’s word would be needed for Israel to know what action to take.” (Bob Waldron, Edited by Mike Willis. Truth Commentaries - 1 and 2 Samuel (Kindle Locations 6511-6512).)
   3. **1 Samuel 13:9-10** – Upon Samuel’s delay, Saul offered a burnt offering to the Lord.
   4. **1 Samuel 13:11-14** – Samuel rebuked Saul for his faithless action of disobedience, and Saul was punished accordingly.
8. Joash’s Dependent Faith
   1. **2 Chronicles 24:1-2** – Joash became king at 7 and was faithful while Jehoiada the priest lived.
      1. Implication – not faithful all his days.
   2. **2 Chronicles 24:4-5** – set his heart to repair the house of the Lord.
      1. **2 Chronicles 24:7** – desecrated and dedicated things to the Baals.
   3. **2 Chronicles 24:8-9** – proclaimed a free-will offering for the repair of the house of the Lord. (Like Moses with the tabernacle.)
   4. **2 Chronicles 24:14** – rebuilt it and worshiped God in it all the days of the priest Jehoiada.
   5. **2 Chronicles 24:15-19** – Jehoiada died, and Joash consented to the people’s desire to turn back to idolatry, and did not listen to God’s plea to repent.
   6. In his rebellion to the Lord Joash was murdered.
9. Faith that Didn’t Quit
10. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego
    1. **Daniel 3:4-7** – Nebuchadnezzar set up the image of gold to be worshiped at the sound of music, and threatened with a furnace of fire.
       1. NOTE – all the people obeyed.
    2. **Daniel 3:8, 12** – The three men accused of disobeying the king.
       1. NOTE – “certain Jews” – meaning other Jews committed this idolatrous practice.
    3. **Daniel 3:13-18** – Nebuchadnezzar was angry and gave them another chance, threatening them further with the furnace, but they did not give.
       1. NOTE – ***“but if not”*** – a resolve to stand steadfast in faith.
    4. King commanded the furnace to be heated 7 times more than usual, and the men that threw the 3 into the furnace died it was so hot.
    5. **Daniel 3:24-25** – God was with them, and spared them.
    6. **Daniel 3:28-30** – Nebuchadnezzar blessed God, and made a decree concerning Him, and promoted the 3.
11. Daniel
    1. **Daniel 6:4-9** – Satraps conspired against Daniel, and convinced Darius to decree that anyone who petitions another god or man will be thrown into the den of lions.
    2. **Daniel 6:10** – knowing of the decree, Daniel proceeded to pray as he always had.
    3. **Daniel 6:14-17** – the king was sorry he made such a foolish decree, but was compelled to follow through with the punishment.
    4. **Daniel 6:18-23** – Daniel was spared by God.
    5. **Daniel 6:25-28** – Like Nebuchadnezzar, Darius made a decree concerning the honoring of God, and Daniel prospered.
12. Faith that Won’t Quit
13. Temptation
    1. **1 Corinthians 10:13** – temptation is common to man, but God will make the way of escape.
       1. **James 4:7** – Satan will flee, but he will return.
       2. **Matthew 4:11** – left Jesus, but returned throughout Jesus’ life. **(cf. Hebrews 4:15** – had a faith that never quit)
    2. **Matthew 26:41** – must not enter into temptation.
       1. I.e. when it comes, we must not enter that door of opportunity, but seeing it as it is, resist!
       2. **1 Peter 5:8-9** – we must resist the devil!
       3. **1 Thessalonians 5:19-22** – we must abstain from evil always!
       4. **1 John 2:1, 6** – Christians can’t give themselves a pass, but must always seek to live like Christ.
    3. We must not give into our temptations and quit in our faith. Every time temptation comes, we must resist it, and look to do the will of God.
14. Suffering
    1. **Job 1:9-12; 2:4-6** – God allowed Satan to strike Job with suffering to test his faith.
    2. **Job 2:9-10** – Job’s wife had faith that quit, and she tempted him to do the same. Job held fast to his integrity and did not sin.
    3. **2 Corinthians 12:7-10** – Various forms of suffering are messengers of Satan, but these can be used by God to strengthen us. His grace is sufficient!
    4. **James 1:2-4** – are we going to let patience have its perfect work, or is our faith going to quit?
15. Doubt
    1. A work of Satan is to cause us to doubt:
       1. Attacking the foundation of our ability to please God – **Hebrews 11:1, 3, 6**
       2. We must resist that doubt.
    2. **Luke 24:36-43** – Jesus asks why they doubted, but then provided evidence to strengthen their faith.
       1. They should have believed, but what they were seeing demanded in their minds another explanation – **v. 37** – supposed to have seen a spirit.
       2. Doubt is not sin, but allowing that doubt to rule, and following that doubt is wrong. FIGHT IT.
       3. JESUS DOES NOT GIVE UP ON US WHEN WE DOUBT, AND WE MUST NOT GIVE UP ON HIM.
    3. **Luke 17:5** – increase our faith!
    4. Don’t quit in your faith because of another challenge!
    5. Grow instead! – **2 Peter 3:18**

**Conclusion**

1. Only faith that perseveres to the end will receive the reward.
2. We must not ever have a limit to our faith. Our faith must not quit.
3. By God’s grace we can be kept for salvation through faith! – **1 Peter 1:5**