

TRIALS, NOT STRANGE...GLORY

(1 Peter 4:12) Beloved do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you. So when a trial comes to us as a Christian, do not think it strange. So do not say "that is strange." Do not say it is strange. Since you are not to think it strange you are sure not to speak that it is strange. It is simply not strange for a Christian to be tried and their faith tested. In James 1:2 we are told to count it all joy when we fall into various trials. In Romans 5:3 we are told to glory in tribulations. So let's see if we have been properly trained: when a trial comes what is our response? Not think or say "that's strange," we count it all joy, and we glory in it. Why? Because we as Christians have the only teachings that can withstand any test. Those teachings, beliefs, are based on the Rock Jesus and stand against any storm (Mt. 7:24-25). Also, Romans 5:1-5 lets us know because we have been made right by faith we access standing grace and glory in tribulations because the tribulations give perseverance, character, and hope a workout as well as produces it. This hope of the glory being affiliated with us in tribulation is not a false hope. It is hope that is realized because the love of God has been poured in our hearts by the Holy Spirit so we can love the way God loves when He first loved us. The source of many trials comes through people not operating in Godly ways. Since we love the way God loves, God so loved the world that God gave His only begotten Son in such a way that whosoever believes (has faith) in the Son shall not perish but have everlasting life. Hence, we do not get bitter toward the trial instigator allowing bitterness to sap our perseverance, pollute our character, and squash the hope of victory. By properly loving at trial time we experience 2 Corinthians 2:14; we are always led in triumph through the trial, the glory is on us through the experience and this glory manifests the fragrance of Christ. We remain in the peacefully abiding state through the trial and out the other end in victory.