

# GOD'S GREAT RACE FOR ALL TIME

## PART 5 YOUR OASIS IS UP AHEAD

James 1:4 BSB **SLIDE**

*Allow perseverance **to finish** its work, so that you may be mature and complete [finished], not lacking anything.*

**JAMES TELLS US OUR CURRENT TRIAL DOES HAVE A FINISH LINE ... THAT THIS TRIAL HAS A USE-BY-DATE**

**SLIDE** Last week I showed this slide illustrating 'The stages of Trials' in our lives.

BUT, WHAT I DIDN'T EMPHASISE LAST WEEK WAS THE FACT THAT AFTER THE TRIAL ... **THERE IS A PERIOD OF REST & REFRESHING FROM GOD – A 'FAITH-OASIS'.**

GOD RARELY STARTS ANOTHER TRIAL STRAIGHT AWAY ...

**SLIDE** THIS SHOULD LOOK LIKE THIS – New Stages of trial with Oases in between each stage.

*God is NOT an intense trainer demanding we go from one trial into another as soon as the former trial finishes.*

HE PROVIDES US WITH A SABBATH-REST IN BETWEEN.

WE COME THROUGH TO AN OASIS OF PEACE ... **A FAITH-OASIS.**

**SLIDE** IN FACT WE COULD LOOK AT THIS JOURNEY **AS A SERIES OF OASES THAT GOD HAS DESIGNED FOR US TO ENJOY ... WE JUST HAVE TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE TRIALS TO GET THERE!**

*I saw a scene in a show on TV where a lady went to see her counselor. This lady had had a break-through and had come to a 'Happy Place'.*

*However, the counselor had to try and justify her time and immediately started to dig into the lady's past problems.*

*It was **the Lady's response** that made me take note. She said, 'Do we have to do this now? **Can't I just enjoy this moment?**'*

*I thought ... that's exactly what God wants us to do – **to enjoy the moment of victory.** To Enjoy the Faith-Oasis that we walk into at the end of a period of trial.*

**SLIDE THIS FAITH-PLACE IS A PLACE OF ABSOLUTE CONTENTMENT**

James calls it a place of perfect contentment where we **'want for nothing'**. **A PLACE OF FAITH WHERE WE TRUST GOD FOR ALL THINGS.**

James 1:4 BSB **SLIDE**

*Allow perseverance to finish its work, so that you may be mature and **complete, not lacking anything.***

**THIS IS A PLACE WHERE WE HAVE LET GO OUR STRIVING ...**

*A place where we have stopped craving after things we think we need to bring us happiness and contentment!*

*Where we've stopped thinking, 'If only I had a new house then I will be satisfied.' 'If only I had a wife or a husband ... or more money ... or a better job ... a bigger congregation ... a new church building.' 'If only I was in pastor Chris Lambe's church ... THEN I WOULD BE SATISFIED ...'*

**NO! THE END OF THE TRIAL BRINGS US TO A PLACE OF ABSOLUTE CONTENTMENT IN FAITH ... KNOWING WE HAVE GOD & PEACE WITH HIM.**

*I watched a series called, 'Anne of Green Gables'.*

*In one episode a con-man convinced the farmers that there was gold in their fields and they had to invest money to confirm it.*

*Most of the town invested and lost their money; however, the older couple who had adopted Anne said, **'We don't need gold. We are satisfied with what we have. We have enough and we are thankful.'***

**THAT'S THE PLACE OF GRATITUDE & CONTENTMENT ... IN ABSOLUTE FAITH.**

*Of course they didn't lose anything.*

**THIS PLACE OF FAITH TEACHES US TO TRUST THAT GOD KNOWS WHAT HE IS DOING & BRINGS US OUT TO A PERIOD OF PERFECT PEACE ... WANTING NOTHING BUT HIS PROVISION.**

*Psalm 23:1 Paraphrased*

*The Lord is my Shepherd ... I don't need anything else.*

**The Lord is bringing you to His Oasis ... The place of complete contentment.**

## **SLIDE THIS FAITH-PLACE IS A PERIOD OF PERFECT PEACE**

Hebrews 12:11 New American Standard Bible **SLIDE**

*For the moment, all discipline [training] seems not to be pleasant, but painful; yet to those who have been trained by it, **afterward** it yields **the peaceful fruit** of righteousness.*

NB: 'DISCIPLINE' = TRAINING

I think it is unfortunate that this word that means 'training' is translated as 'Discipline' by so many versions and even worse, as 'Chastisement'.

PEOPLE SEEM TO BE FIXATED ON **GOD PUNISHING US**, BUT ...

The actual word (*paideia*), a noun, is from *paideuo*; meaning tutorage, i.e. **Education or training ...**

It is an old Greek word for the education or instruction of a child.

**PAUL USES THE SAME WORD INSTRUCTING TIMOTHY ABOUT SCRIPTURE**

2 Timothy 3:16 Berean Literal Bible

*Every Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for instruction, for conviction, for correction and **for training** (*paideia*) in righteousness.*

## **THE PEACEFUL FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

This is what this Faith-Place provides after the trial ... when His faith-righteousness is worked into us and we have been transformed more into his glory. Now comes the divine fruit of peace ...

**The fruit of peace** is something that comes in its season (*Psalms 1:3*)

**THE WONDERFUL THING ABOUT FRUIT IS ...**

**GOD HAS MADE IT TASTE GOOD FOR US TO ENJOY!**

God cares about your enjoyment. He wants you to enjoy this time of great peace.

This fruit is for us to taste ... to enjoy spiritual refreshment ... to be satisfied with his abundance ...

Song of Solomon 2:3 NIV **SLIDE**

*Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest is my beloved among the young men. **I delight** to sit in his shade and **His fruit is sweet to my taste.***

**SLIDE THIS FAITH-PLACE IS A PLACE OF SPIRITUAL  
SUSTENANCE**

In this place we should remain as long as possible.  
**THIS PLACE WITH THE FRUIT OF PEACE WILL GIVE US  
STRENGTH & SUSTENANCE.**

We should feast on His Peace and build ourselves up in our Faith  
ready for the journey ahead – the next trial ...

(Deuteronomy 1:6-7: *You have stayed at this mountain long enough.*

<sup>7</sup>*Resume your journey ...* BSB)

Elijah was given spiritual food to sustain him for the next journey.

1 Kings 19:7-8 NKJV **SLIDE**

*The angel of the Lord came back the second time and touched  
[Elijah] and said, 'Arise and eat, because the journey is too great  
for you.'*

<sup>8</sup>*So he arose and ate and drank and he went in the strength of that  
food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of  
God.*

Acts 3:19-20 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*Repent [turn to Him], therefore and turn again, for the blotting out  
of your sins,<sup>20</sup>so that **times of refreshing may come  
from the presence of the Lord**, and that He may send  
the One having been appointed to you, Christ Jesus.*

**NB: TIMES (Plural) OF REFRESHING ... NOT JUST ONE SEASON BUT  
MANY SEASONS OF REFRESHING WAITING FOR YOU UP AHEAD.**

*And He shall send Jesus Christ ... not in person regarding His first or  
second coming ... But His being sent in the ministration of the word and  
by his Spirit, to the comfort of their souls. (Gill)*

**SLIDE 3 HINTS TO HELP YOU GO THROUGH THE TRIAL  
QUICKER**

Hebrews 3:19 NLT

So we see that *because of their unbelief* they were not able to enter  
His rest.

- **SLIDE 1. LET GO IN FAITH OF WHAT YOU HAVE KNOWN BEFORE**

**THIS FAITH-OASIS IS A COMPLETELY NEW PLACE NEVER SEEN BEFORE. IT IS A GREATER PLACE**

*When we go through hard times, we always want the trial to stop so we can go back to where we were before – to what we had before – to the way we were before the trial came ...*

**BUT THAT PLACE IS NO LONGER THERE ... GOD HAS TAKEN YOU ON ... YOU CAN NEVER GET BACK THERE.**

**THE OASIS UP AHEAD IS AN ENTIRELY NEW PLACE & YOU NEED TO HAVE A GREATER MATURITY IN FAITH TO ENTER INTO IT.**

**YOU HAVE NOT KNOWN THIS OASIS BEFORE ... YOU CAN NEVER GO BACK.**

- **SLIDE 2. LOCK INTO THE TRIAL YOU ARE GOING THROUGH IN FAITH**

James 1:4 CLV-AMPLIFIED **SLIDE**

*Lock into this period of trial with the understanding ... **this is going to take some time** ... Don't try to get out of it in your time ...*

*Settle into it with the mindset God is working His work in His time.*

*Find your faith in God Himself and wait patiently for Him.*

*Let God complete it and complete you in it.*

*The wife of a well-known Minister (Brian Bailey) was undergoing heart surgery ... She pivoted for many days between life and death. He was devastated and prayed*

*Jesus appeared to Him wearing rags as the man of sorrows and acquainted with grief and said, 'You want to rush through this time! Don't rush through this time ... Accept it and gather the treasures of darkness.'*

- **SLIDE 3. LOOK UP IN FAITH & ACKNOWLEDGE GOD IS SOVEREIGN IN THIS TRIAL**

Romans 8:28 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*... We know that God works together all things for good to those loving God, to those being called according to His purpose.*

YOUR CURRENT TRIAL CAN ONLY BE COMPLETED WHEN YOU COME TO THIS PLACE OF FAITH IN A SOVEREIGN GOD.  
A PLACE WHERE WE LOOK UP AND LET GO TO GOD HIMSELF ...

*After suffering cancer treatment for about nine months ... I was finally pronounced in remission. The doctor called and told me that there was NO TRACE of cancer at all ...*

*My trial was over and the Lord quickened the following verse in my heart which describes this new 'Faith-Oasis' at which I had arrived.*

Song of Solomon 2:10-12 NKJV **SLIDE**

*My beloved spoke, and said to me: "Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. <sup>11</sup>For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. <sup>12</sup>The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.*

## SUPPLEMENTAL

Regarding Hebrews 12:11, there are 2 schools of thought ...

- It is righteousness that brings us peace (*Objective*)
- It is peace that brings righteousness (*Subjective*)

James 3:18 NKJV

*... The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace ...*

We are told to hunger and thirst after The Righteousness that we already have, **so that we might taste it ... experience what we have ...** that it will come to pass in our lives here and now ...