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July 28th

Rainy Day Faith

In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:6,7, NASB

Everybody wants a testimony, but nobody wants a test. Everybody wants victory but nobody wants to fight in the battle. Everybody wants to experience the "fourth man in the furnace," but nobody wants to be thrown in the fire. Everybody wants to share how they were delivered from lions, but nobody wants to be thrown into the den. I like the way Charles Spur geon expressed this idea.

We don't grow strong in faith on sunshiny days. It is only in strong weather that a man gets faith. Faith is not given to us I ike the gentle dew from heaven; it generally comes in the whirlwind and the storm. Look at the old oaks. How is it that the ey have become so deeply rooted in the earth? Ask the March winds and they will tell you. It was not the April shower that did it, or the sweet May sunshine, but it was March's rough wind, the blustering and shaking of the tree back and forth, causing its roots to bind themselves around the rocks. So it must be with us. We don't make great soldiers in the barrack sat home; they must be made amidst flying shots and thundering battle. We can't expect to make good sailors in a small rowboat; they must be made far away on the deep sea, where the wild winds howl, and the thunders roll. Storms and te mpests are the things that make men tough and hardy mariners. They see the works of the Lord and His wonders in the deep. So it is with Christians. Great faith must have great trials.

Steve Hill

Judges 11:12-40; Acts 15 Jeremiah 24; Mark 10