

Eight Blessings of Salvation. Sermon 6

“Experience”

Romans 5:4 “*And patience, experience; and experience, hope:*”

A. The meaning of “experience”.

1. Strong's defines experience this way, it means test, by implication it means trustiness, then Strong's says it means “proof”.
2. Vines says it means - "the process of proving"
3. The Greek word is used in the scriptures defined as proof.
4. The word “experience” works this way, Tribulations delivers patience and through that patience we gain experience or proof of our faith in God.
5. Wuest in his word studies says, “*tried integrity; a state of mind which has stood the test. The process has already been expressed by tribulation.*” – “*The verbal form is dokimazō, "to put to the test for the purpose of approving, and finding that the person tested meets the specifications, to put one's approval upon him."*

B. So, what does this word “experience or proof” mean to the believer?

1. As Christians we must understand that all things are in God's hands, it is His ordained will, His predestination, His elective will for us, and our only hope is in God.
2. When we get to this point, then we have reached the point of our proof or our “trustiness” in God. No believer truly trusts God, until we have put all things in His hands and trust Him.
3. In reality, to us as Christians, it is called “proof under trial's” God bringing all these trials, persecution, to cause our faith to only be in Him, only He can deliver us.
4. In reality, it is God showing His love to us. Romans 5:5b “*...because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*”
5. Our experience or our proof in our hearts is what delivers to us our blessed hope in God.
6. Basically, God brought it to us, and only God will deliver us. Isn't that beautiful?

C. This is all about God's love for us.

1. God said, "*We love him, because he first loved us.*" 1 John 4:19 Therefore, everything is about God's love for us, He loved us so much He gave His Son for us, not that He gave Him, but how He gave Him, on the cross.
2. **1 John 4:15** Says, "*Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.*" When we trust and confess Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we need to also understand that "*God dwelleth in him*" or that is God dwells in us as believers. Do we understand this?
3. Next, 1 John 4:16a "*And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us...*" Once we come to realize "*...the love that God hath to us...*" we have reached a higher level of understanding, we understand our experience, or we are proofed.
4. Albert Barnes said, "*We all have assurance that God has loved us, and the fullest belief in the great fact of redemption by which he has manifested his love to us.*" Our experience here is, how much God loves us, we love Him because He loved us, our love rest on His love. Our life rests on His will.
5. **1Jn 4:17a** "*Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment...*" Our Love is made perfect in God and in Christ and their doing. Our faith and hope are made perfect in God and on Christ and in their doing.
6. Our understanding the love of God is understanding Him, not just His love but His workings in our life. Look at **Ephesians 2:8 - 10** "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast. (10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*"
7. Let's look at **Romans 8:28 - 30** "*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. (29) For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (30) Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*"
8. To have your proof in life to deliver your real hope, you must understand what God is doing and why He is doing it. You must know "*that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*" No

- matter how bad the trial, tribulations, persecutions, it is all to grow us. God does it all because He loves us.
9. So many Christians go through life without this experience. Never understanding why things happen to them, never understanding that “...*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God...*”
 10. It is because of this “*that we may have boldness in the day of judgment:*” **1 John 4:17b**
 11. **1 John 4:18** “*There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*” Our experience or proof is in God’s love for us, once we understand God’s love we understand God’s workings, once we understand God’s workings, we should never fear because God loves us and everything that happens is God’s happenings, and all are for our growth and understanding of Him.
 12. **2 Corinthians 5:18** “*And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;*”
 13. **Romans 11:36** “*For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*”