

“The Uncomfortable And Rewarding Purpose Of Trials And Testing”
1 Samuel 21:1-15

“Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering (squeezed under pressure) produces endurance, (work in the face of obstacles) and endurance produces character, (to purify of impurities, to prove to be pure) and character produces hope, (confidence in God), and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Romans 5:3-4). “...But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps” (1 Peter 2:20-21). “...if necessary, you have been grieved with various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith...may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:6-7).

- The Graceful Disaster of Sanctification: (Romans 7:21-25)
 - (1 Samuel 21:1-6) Lie number one: *“The king has charged me with a matter and said to me, ‘Let no one know anything of the matter about which I send you, and with which I have charged you’....” (1 Samuel 21:2)*
 - Provision number one: *“So the priest gave him the holy bread, for there was no bread there but the bread of the Presence....” (1 Samuel 21:6; cf. Leviticus 24:5-9; Luke 6:1-5,9)*
 - Hope produced: *“...See the man who would not make God his refuge, but trusted in the abundance of his riches and sought refuge in his own destruction!....I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever. I will thank You forever, because You have done it. I will wait for Your name, for it is good, in the presence of the godly.” (Psalm 52:1-9)*
 - (1 Samuel 21:7-9) Lie number two: *“...For I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king’s business required haste.” (1 Samuel 21:8)*
 - Provision number two: *“...If you will take that [Goliath’s sword], take it, for there is none but that here. And David said, ‘There is none like that; give it to me.’” (1 Samuel 21:9)*
 - Hope produced: *“I sought the LORD, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears....Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!....When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles....Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.” (Psalm 34:1-22)*
 - (1 Samuel 21:10-15) Lie number three: *“So he changed his behavior before them and pretended to be insane in their hands....” (1 Samuel 21:13)*
 - Provision number three: *“David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam.” (1 Samuel 22:1)*
 - Hope produced: *“When I am afraid, I put my trust in You. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?.... You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in Your bottle. Are they not in Your book?” (Psalm 56:1-13)*

Announcements:

★**CHRISTMAS SERVICES:** We will be having our normal midweek Thursday worship service on December 22nd. We will NOT be having a Christmas Eve Service. We WILL BE having our normal worship service on Christmas Day at 5:30pm, there will be NO Children's Ministry offered during the worship service on Christmas Day!

★**FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** We are having a Fellowship Dinner THIS Sunday, December 18th, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the back table, please sign-up to bring something to the dinner. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!