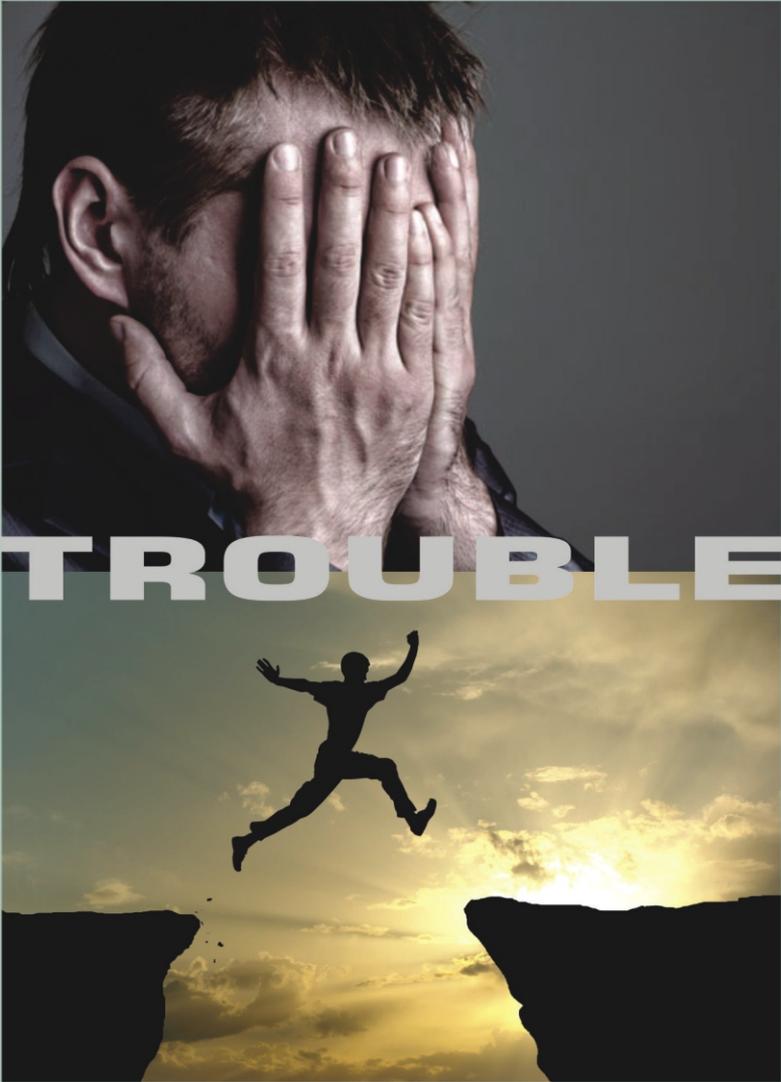


Our Point of View



Transcribed . Peter Scott . 12/2014

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The World might look at the church and say, “What a sorry bunch of guys.” But that is so far from the truth. You are in fact mighty men and women of God and I’m going to show you how Jesus looks at you, *and* how the enemy sees you. It’s vastly different from how you see yourselves. It is summed up in this: we are ***Sons of God***. We are children of God. We have been called by His name. What an awesome truth that really is, to be Sons of God. What an inheritance we have!

This morning the Lord wants to talk about our point of view during trials, about trouble and about joy.

*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, . . .
(James 1:2)*

Trials will Come

Before the crucifixion and before the garden of Gesthemane, Jesus, knowing all that is coming after, knowing He is going to sacrifice His physical life for us, knowing He’s going to have to go through the pain and torture of being nailed to the cross, knowing Judas would betray Him, knowing all these things He says to them,

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. (John 14:1)

Let not your heart be troubled! I heard that this week when I was in prayer and I said, “Lord, how can you say such things?!” Knowing what we have to face how can You say to your disciples, “Let not your heart be troubled.”? I would *prophetically* answer to you, “Because I am going to bring you a lot of joy. Through these trials, through these hard circumstances you are facing will come rewards that are more than worth it.” If we didn’t have the troubles we have now, we’d have new ones. I’ll give you mine. No matter how small yours may actually be, it is still *huge to you*.

I found this demonstrated to me this week. While picking up some logs and putting them in the garage to dry off before they go into the fireplace, I got this little splinter underneath my nail bed. It was so small I couldn’t find it. For the last two weeks no matter what I did, the pain got worse and worse. Finally I got the dissecting scope out and with a needle I got this *little* thing out that you could hardly see even with the scope! And

voila, it was much better. I thought to myself, during the past few weeks this was a source of huge discomfort. Every moment of my waking hours, day, evening and night, my finger would be throbbing with pain. I was so aggravated by such a relatively small thing. In this the Lord showed me that sometimes it isn't how big or little things are, it is what we think about and where we are coming from in the process. If we focus in on the trouble and on the pain, it's going to be really painful, super painful (get your pain tablets out). It is going to be hard. Lord, how can you say, "Don't let your heart be troubled?" He would answer, "Come on, troubled ones, come to Me. Come on, oh you who's hearts are troubled this morning, come on. Come over to Me." That's what He is saying.

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden. . . (Matthew 11:28)

Sometimes all that you go through is *not* easy at all. What you have to go through is labor intensive, heavily laden, weighing you down. Work. Trials. It doesn't really matter what you are going through in life. If you are looking at the circumstance from the trouble-point-of-view, you are looking at it from the *opposite* side Jesus has for you. He wants you to be on the other side of that fulcrum as the children of God. You are not pathetic. You are prophetic! You are mighty men and mighty women of God. Jesus says, "Come to Me, all you who labor . . . and I will give you rest." The kind of rest that soaks you completely making you *free* from all the troubles in life.

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matthew 11:29)

Jesus says this is the new paradigm, this is the new vision you shall have. His yoke is *Easy* and burden is *Light*. So you can come into church all bent over and glum or you can come in filled with the Spirit, filled with the joy of the Lord. You have taken Psalm 97 and you have fed yourself on it. Like birds at a bird feeder every morning, you can feed yourself on the Word of God in the same way.

The fruit of the Spirit begins with love, joy and peace (Galatians 5:22). That's where the fruit of the Spirit is found. So as the Spirit of God dwells within you that fruit *needs* to come forth. We don't want to be walking around like sadsacks just waiting for the trial to be over. As humans, we tend to be too outcome-focused; we cannot wait until this trial is over and then we will be "okay." An example: what if I won Lotto, my financial problems would be over and I'd be all right. Or if this person in my life could just somehow not be there any more, everything would be okay. But that's just wrong! No. In the place you find yourself, Jesus says, "My yoke is easy, My burden is not heavy. It is light."

In the Christmas message, angels said to the shepherds, “I bring you good tidings (not sad) with great joy (not burdensome) to you and all people, for there is born this day to you in the city of David a Savior Who is Christ the Lord.” He is your Lord and Savior, the One whose name you are called by, Sons of the living God. That is what you are in truth. That’s a source of great joy, not a small, little-eeeking-out joy. The scripture that comes to my mind is that we should know how to abase and how to abound found in Phillipians 4:12.

I used to have catered lunches for twelve years. I could have anything I wanted for lunch. My wife Cheryl could not compete with this at dinner. I could have shrimp on a BBQ stick with avocados, etc., anything I wanted. We could call that “abundant.” I could have skewered chicken, Mexican food, Chinese, lunches from any of the local restaurants. However, I got real tired of this after a while. “Shrimp again!?” I sometimes thought I’d go into the kitchen and make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. The Lord said, “You have to learn how to abase *and* abound. Whatever you have, give thanks for what you have.” There really is no difference. There really is joy in a peanutbutter and jelly sandwich. Take some toast and put a little peanutbutter over it and put it into the microwave for a short time. There are all kinds of things you can do without spending a lot of money. The joy of the Lord is your privilege to enjoy. “Rejoice,” the Lord says, “Again I say rejoice. It is your privilege to have these good things as children of God.” Now there are going to be times as well when you are going to have to face cancers, face death, when you go to death’s door, but you will *never* die a prisoner. Because you are free men and women of God.

When we heard of that man who was rescued in Yemen a few days ago, he was rescued and wounded during the rescue. They got him to the ship where he subsequently passed away but he died a *free* man. If I have to go, I want to die a free man. The Lord said to me, “No matter what, you are going to die a free man.” Awesome because in the Lord we are free! There is no one who can take us captive, not in the circumstances we find ourselves in. No time of laborious trial will really cast us down. There is something inside of us that is different. The Holy Spirit is at work.

A merry heart does good, like medicine, . . . (Proverbs 17:22)

I didn’t know there was *good* medicine until I read that.

Casting the whole of your care, all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully. (1 Peter 5:7, Amplified)

Drink it in. Now try to be upset. Try to be heavy and downcast. Try with that scripture in place, it is impossible; you are a child of God. You have the Holy Spirit within. There is something different about you.

Let's go to,

As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. (John 15: 9-11)

Remain, not fleetingly or be-upon-you-for-a-little-while. No, that His joy might *remain* in you and be full. That "*remaining process*" is our target. If you don't know it, make it your goal. That joy is not just for Sunday or when you feel good, but rather even when you are going through the hard times, the joy cannot be taken away from you and there are reasons for this.

Let me talk about the baptism of the Holy Spirit one more time, how John the Baptist recognized the Christ,

*I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and **remaining** on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'* (John 1:33)

We see a lot of imagery around this and can get the idea of the dove coming down only for a short while on the Lord's head. That is not what John was seeing. The Spirit would descend and would **remain** . . . It wasn't there for a season, only when He was "filled with the Spirit." But the Spirit came down and **remained**. Drink it in because He was the First-born among many brethren. You are His child. He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit has seen to it that this "**remainingness**" is your inheritance! Thanks to the Lord.

Kids of the Kingdom, do you know why the enemy is upset with you? Because this is your gold. This is your inheritance. This belongs to you. He would distract you, pervert you, and captivate you, but that is not going to happen. Because the Holy Spirit within you is far greater than he who is in the world. Amen and Hallelujah.

Let's finish the first text.

This is My commandment (What commandment? Part of the Ten Commandments, a set of rules? No, something more than that.), *that you love one another* (Love one another as you would like yourself loved? No,) *as **I have loved you***. *Greater love has no one than this,*

than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. (John 15:12-14)

Doing whatever the Holy Spirit tells you to do is His commandment. This is a lot harder than the Ten Commandments.

No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you . . . (John 15:15-16)

You are chosen. Do you know that? He chose you. He picked you out. Do you remember when they were picking sides for the volley ball game? The appointed captains were told to choose whom they wanted and you were always the last one, or worse the second to the last. But rather, Jesus chose you first, best, wanted for His team. He chose you, chose you and He appointed you for what?

*. . . that you should go and bear fruit (of the Spirit, love, joy and peace), and that your fruit should **remain**, . . . (John 15:16)*

This is Jesus' prayer; these are His words. And when you are in that bad trial,

that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another. (John 15:16-17)

The Lord's Strategy

You are Sons of God. Ready to go? Maybe not yet. Fully equipped? Well you are. If you have the Holy Spirit, you are fully equipped. Do you know where in the New Testament Jesus was joyful? It said He was full of joy. About Himself? What was He joyful about?

This is an interesting time in New Testament history. Understand first off, Jesus hadn't been crucified as yet and hadn't gone to the Father and He hadn't sent the fullness of the Spirit to the disciples. The only one who had the fullness of the Spirit remaining on Him in this text was the Lord Himself.

I believe that this is a capsule, a snapshot and a foretaste of what was to come. It was not just for the world to see but for the enemy to see, and, it was for Jesus to see. Because it says,

After these things (What things? Well, Jesus was doing miracles; Jesus was teaching His disciples; Jesus was confronting, etc.) the Lord

appointed seventy others also, (so He had twelve disciples but He had seventy other guys. That's a lot of people.) and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. (Luke 10:1)

So Jesus says that He's going to send these guys out two by two. I don't want you to go alone. That's a good rule-of-thumb; you should not go anywhere alone since it is good to have a witness and also to encourage one another. Now, I would never have sent these guys out. What kind of teaching and resources did they have any way? Did they even understand the doctrines they were being taught? All they knew was that they knew Jesus. That's all. But the Lord sends them out; He says,

The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves. (Luke 10:2)

. . . as lambs among the wolves; I would *never* do that! Are you kidding?! What kind of strategy is that? However sometimes I feel like He's done just that to me. I've found myself surrounded by people that are willing to take me apart and have every other doctrine and every other understanding opposite to mine. Anything I say would be misunderstood. Yet He sends me there anyway. I say, "What, Lord? What are You thinking?!"

But ah yes, He fills you with the Spirit and maybe it's only one word that He has for you to say and it goes forth like an arrow and hits the target. Then you walk away and say, "Okay, I get it. I'm a child of the King. I'm one of His; I belong to Jesus."

Well, He sends them out without a lot of preparation here. You don't have to have the right translation of the Bible. You don't have to make sure you are all "stocked up spiritually" either. Take the money or the credit card and leave it home; you don't need it. Those are not the important things. Even if you had them they wouldn't be worth that much.,

*Carry neither money bag, knapsack, nor sandals; and greet no one along the road. But whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house.' And if a son of peace is there, your peace will **rest** on it; if not, it will return to you. (This "rest," this "remain" is a constant theme the Lord keeps referencing. The peace of God is an important process. If there is a spirit of contention, you will know it.) And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house. (Another words, don't wander around, a counter strategy that is opposite to what the Lord is telling them here. So house-to-house*

witnessing? No, it would be opposite to the type given to us in this scripture. Rather go into one house, the peace of God remaining there [a model for home churches], and set-up-camp. Let people come to you to hear the word of God.) *Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'* (Luke 10:2-9)

As we have said all this was done and said to them before the cross, resurrection and infilling of the Spirit. Now today, you have something even more to say. The kingdom of God is not *near* to you. You can say that the kingdom of God is *in* your midst because you are there, a child of the kingdom. Anyway in that day and in that hour, this was the message.

But whatever city you enter, and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, 'The very dust of your city which clings to us we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near you.' *But I say to you that it will be more tolerable in that Day for Sodom than for that city.* (Luke 10:10-12)

Do you know that is where the enemy gets upset with you? When you are not received in the name of the Lord, when your Christianity is rejected, the Lord says they are not rejecting you, rather they are rejecting Him and woe to that city! Big trouble. Woe to the impenitent cities! Let's skip down a few verses. The seventy go out and they come back. No captives taken; nobody had a bad report. When Jesus sends you out, good things happen. What an awesome time with what happens here. This is such a glad time for Jesus.

Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." (Luke 10: 17)

They came back with joy because of what they saw. Did they have trials? I'm certain they did. Did some get rejected? Yes, they did. There were cities where they were shut out. But they came back joyful with a good report, like Joshua and Caleb coming back after scouting out the land for Moses. There were giants, right? But they said it doesn't matter who or what is in the promised land; the giants are our "lunch." We can "eat" these guys.

Can you imagine this event? The Lord sending you out with almost no teaching, just going out and proclaiming the "kingdom of God is near." You are in the house and people are coming in, some very strange people too! Then they become a brand new person, they become a disciple of Christ. They become born into the kingdom of God. Wouldn't that excite you a little?

*And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. (Let’s say that again, “**Nothing shall by any means hurt you.**”) Nevertheless (That is not the big deal.) do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.” (Luke 10:18-20)*

You are a son of God. You are a woman of God. You are Mine. I have chosen you. Don’t forget it in that hour, Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit. Jesus Himself was full of joy. Why? Because the first fruits were manifesting. Up until that time, history had never known the kingdom like it was expressed here. Up until that point, it had been a prophet. Up until that point it had been one man or one woman. Up until that point it was a segment of time when the Spirit came down and was made real upon the earth and the enemy had to scatter, whether it was fire or whatever the case might be, it was that single moment in time. The reason Satan was so upset, the reason he came falling down from heaven is because he was saying, “Aaaah, what is this?! I’ve never seen this before. These are just humans! These are “my guys. You don’t have any right over them. Who are you, you seventy?” For the first time in church history, anybody who is called by His name, anybody who is appointed and chosen can go out and the demons are subject to them. Not just pastors, nor the deacons, nor the clergy, not just the ones in authority, nor those who knew everything, not those who have all their doctrine right, but *those who loved God and are called according to His purpose*. The enemy has no strategy to come back at this. If I were the enemy, I would be falling like lightning too! I’d be saying, “Aaaaah, I’m undone! This is the beginning of the end. If this is what it is going to be like, I don’t have a chance. If this is what the church is going to be like, how can I possibly fight them? How can I come against them?! Nothing is going to hurt them.” Well, Jesus knowing what was happening, thought, “Ooooh Father, this is it! Did you see that, world? Seventy, I just sent them out, like lambs among the wolves! They could’ve been wiped out but the enemy was like “lunch” to them. Did you see it with your eyes? With your mouth could you taste it?”

In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.” (Luke 10:21-22)

The revelation of Christ, the revelation that you are sons and daughters of the most high God can only be made real to you by Him. I cannot do it. I cannot somehow convince you this morning that you are Sons, children of the most high God. I cannot convince you but the Holy Spirit has already begun that work. The fullness of that understanding is proportional to the power you have in Christ. It is already yours.

Then He turned to His disciples and said privately (If you could just see what I'm seeing.), "Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it." (Luke 10:23-24)

But now, you seventy, you have blessed "My socks off." I'll have to go looking for them for I don't know where they are. I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning. Because a few demons were destroyed? No, but because the power of the kingdom of God came down and was resident within anyone whom the Lord Himself has called by His name.

Conclusion

Now, let's finish. Where do you get your joy? I get joy when my computer works really well, doesn't crash. Or 'my camera, "Oh look, such a beautiful picture." Or things go well and the family comes together for Christmas; I got the presents I really wanted. That's always a good thing. I get great joy from these things. But it's a kind of temporal, earthly joy wrapped up in circumstances. But the Lord is calling us to a joy that remains, a fruit of the Spirit which comes down just like when Jesus was baptized in water. It came down on Him like a dove and didn't fly off. The Spirit came down and rested, and remained on, and permeated, and saturated, and immersed Him in the joy of the Lord and the rest of God. When this happened Jesus could see with the eyes of the Father clearly. I believe that until this second, He was just a man walking into the promises of God. He certainly was the Son of God but He didn't understand fully the nature of what God was doing until that moment in time. (This is my opinion. Other theologians may agree or not.) The Holy Spirit makes it happen. The Holy Spirit who is given to you makes it happen. We talked about the gifts of the Spirit just briefly the other day. The gifts of the Spirit as they are being manifest within you, encourage them. They are not to be shunned or put away saying, "Too spooky for me." It is all good whether it's "tongues" or "interpretation of tongues" or whether it's the "discernment of spirits." Nobody wants that last one for some reason. I don't know why. Did you

know you can discern good and evil spirits? That's one of the gifts of the Spirit. Prophecy. Interpretation of prophecy. These are all awesome things.

I published a photo on Facebook this week and somebody who I know is not a Christian said, "You know, that's prophetic." It was picture of a group of highschool kids going down to the Great Salt Lake from their school bus. What was that person seeing? He saw people going in one direction, purpose and understanding. Somehow we are able to use prophecy to communicate to people where simple logic doesn't get through. If you were to use only simple logic you may end up with wrong understanding. Some things which are *only* logical may not be completely correct or at all.

What Jesus said the disciples were seeing was a foretaste of the work of the Holy Spirit in the church to come, what kings and prophets had not ever seen before, and the enemy had no clue. What they were seeing was the Holy Spirit at work. The seventy were full of the first fruits of the kingdom of God here on earth and that's why they were full of joy.

Now you have got to get this point. There is *more joy over you today* than was over them at that moment. There is more joy over your testimony and over what God is doing now in you and through you than in those seventy. Because now in this day, He has died for your sins. Because today He was buried and rose again. In this day He went to sit at the right hand of the Father. From that place He sent His Holy Spirit, not just to come down and to visit for a while but that He might *dwell* in your heart and fill you to overflowing so that you're soaking wet, totally immersed in His grace and mercy. We don't have to be concerned about credit cards and money. We don't have to have all the details of where we are going. We don't even have to have a plan. We don't have to have a defense before the courts; we only need the Holy Spirit. The enemy has no defense. *He has no defense*. He cannot kill us; he cannot torture us; he cannot make us feel bad. He cannot crush us under his feet. There is no prison that can hold us. There is no demented barbarian who can kill us. There is no government that can oppress us. For we are His children and we will never be able to shrug it off and say, "I give it up." It is our inheritance and *His* prayer will be answered in our lives. He will come and bring us to the place He wants with the fruit evident within us. That our fruit would be seen and would *remain*. There really are times I see with spiritual eyes the enemy fall from heaven like lightning. We have that power within us.

Closing Prayer

Lord, we rest in Your peace. We thank You for the joy You have given us. There is no trial set before us that could steer us away from Your

love which encompasses and surrounds us and fills us so completely and deeply. I pray that it would not leave, that it would not have a place far away, but that it would be close, so we could drink it in, drink it, drink it. That we would swim in it, go for it, be immersed in it, that You would overcome us, that the circumstances wouldn't overcome us but Your Spirit would take over and overcome our inner man. That the enemy would be afraid of the church. He would say, "Oh, I am NOT going near this guy, this woman of God, those prayers I know well, always answered. Those prayers go before the King and I know the angels hear them."

Father, we ask you to go before us. Indeed, the cancers would be healed. Indeed the colds and the flues and every process of the enemy to distract and to pervert would be thwarted. Lord, that You would push them away from the kingdom of God! Let us *dwell* in Your heart this day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

All scripture from the
New King James translation unless otherwise noted.

Author . Peter Scott
12 Oak Ridge Terrace
Kingston, NY 12401

