

Testing Authenticity in a Counterfeit World

I. What God will do (v. 6)

A. Salvation's Present Trials with the lens of what God will do...

1. Proves our circumstances are best understood in light of our Eternal Inheritance, what God will do; it is as good as done
 2. "In this..."
Eternal Inheritance (imperishable, undefiled, unfading) is coupled with Joy
 3. "rejoice..."
Joy is coupled with our Present Trials
 4. "grieved by various trials"
- *There will be seasons in life when you lack provision, power, position, protection, and a sense of permanence.*
 - *At times you will become the recipient of verbal or physical persecutions that arise on account of the Word.*
 - *This includes the pain experienced by those who have loved ones whose bodies appear to be wasting away before their very eyes.*
 - *This includes the dark moments in life when we are asked to fend off the prowling attacks of Satan.*

- David Helm

II. What God is doing (v. 7-9)

A. Salvation's Present Trials with the lens of what God is doing... (v. 7-9)

1. Proves the genuineness of our faith
2. Genuine Faith is:
 - a) Tested
 - b) Refined (Romans 14:23, removing sin—where we put faith in ourselves)
 - c) More Precious than Gold (God's economy = Genuine Faith > Gold)

3. Genuine Faith is marked by:

- a) Continual Belief (Trust, Put One's Confidence in)
- b) Continual Faith in what is unseen (Hebrews 11:1)
- c) Continual Rejoicing with an inexpressible joy

GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION and REAL LIFE is continual growth toward maturity in CHRIST.
GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION and REAL LIFE is the LIFE of JESUS CHRIST being formed in me.

III. What God has done (v. 10-12)

A. Salvation's Present Trials with the lens of what God has done...

- 1. Proves God's love for us and gives a fuller and bigger picture that we are a part of something bigger than ourselves
- 2. Encouragement from Prophets
- 3. Encouragement from Preachers
- 4. Encouragement from Angels

What God has done,
What God is doing,
What God will do
—these are the lenses to see our circumstances;
for Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

