



Moving On To Perfection

Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

In **James 1:2-4 (NLT)** it says, “² Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.” So dear people of



Valley Isle Fellowship, even all of the horrible and unprecedented challenges that are surrounding us because of this COVID-19 virus, God is working out something good and wonderful. Another passage of scripture that is still solid and true is, **Romans 8:28 (NLT)** “²⁸ And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”

It may seem ludicrous and ridiculous that God can use such evil and horror for His glory and honor, but let me remind you that He used the evil and horror of Jesus’ crucifixion to bring to us the wonder and glory of our salvation. In fact, without the loving sacrifice of Jesus, we would not be able to have this glorious salvation that we now possess. During this COVID-19 challenge and crisis, we need to keep our eyes on Jesus and to be co-laborers with Him in bringing about all that He is accomplishing. We need to lay down all of our fears and desires and to simply trust in Him. “**Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)** ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. ⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”

From the passage in **James 1:4**, we can know that if we allow Him, He will use these challenges to move us to perfection. The reason that I say “if” is because it is not a sure thing. It is not a sure thing because the “ball is in our court.” That is to say, we need to work together with Him and not fight and rebel

against Him. If we were to set up ourselves against Him, then He will not be able to move us on to perfection. Now, as far as God is concerned, when we make the decision to love and follow Him, then it is a done deal. We will move on to perfection, the perfection that He desires for and in us. He will provide every resource and circumstance needed to accomplish that.

Please take notice of the progression that takes place in **James 1:2-4**. It begins by saying that “when trouble comes your way.” This says to me that trouble will come your way. But then it goes on to say that when it comes, then consider it an opportunity for great joy. That seems so odd because how can we have great joy when trouble comes our way? We can take great joy because we love and trust Him for what follows in James. Verse 3 says that the testing of our faith gives our endurance a chance to grow. So this must mean that every time we are tested, our endurance has a chance to grow when we face it in the way that Jesus would empower and instruct us to endure. This growing endurance, when fully matured and developed, will make us perfect and complete. So perfect and complete that we will need nothing, except for Jesus.



I may not be seeing things very clearly right now as we are in the midst of all of these challenges. But I know that I can trust the one who holds my future. He loves me and cares for me like no other. I can trust my health, my finances, my relationships, in fact I can trust all that I have (and don’t

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Moving On To Perfection

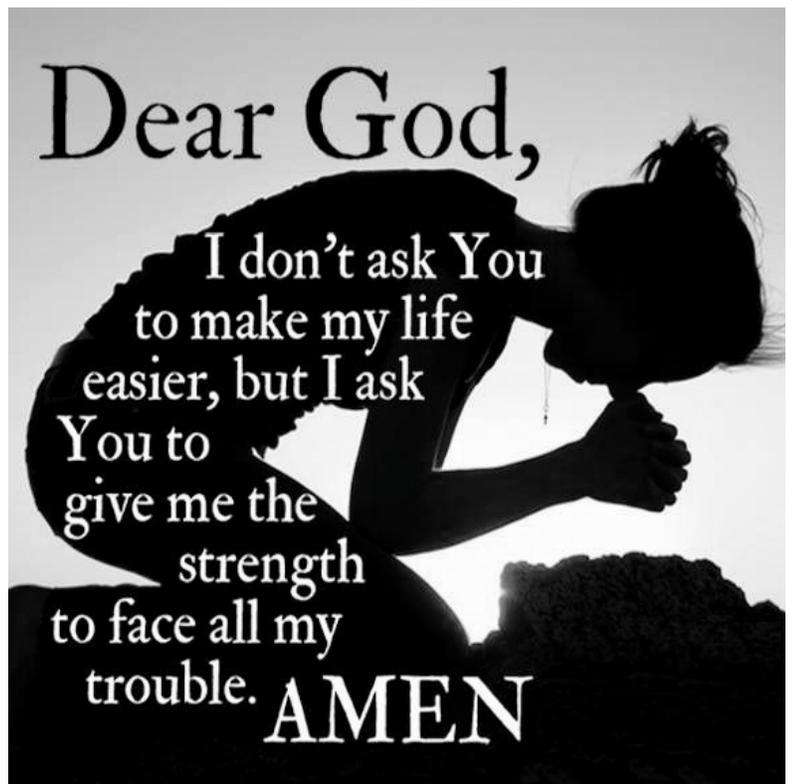
Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

have) and all that I am to Him. I know that He loves me and that all of my needs (not my desires), He is already working to provide. I also know that He is never late, but sometimes He comes through in the nick of time, but He always comes through. We are His and His mercies are new to us every morning.

Lamentations 3:20-27 (NLT) ²⁰ I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. ²¹ Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: ²² The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. ²³ Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. ²⁴ I say to myself, "The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!" ²⁵ The LORD is good to those who depend on him, to those who search for him. ²⁶ So it is good to wait quietly for salvation from the LORD. ²⁷ And it is good for people to submit at an early age to the yoke of his discipline:

With all of the unprecedented trials that we are all going through, remember that the Lord is near us and that He will never forsake us. We can trust in Him that He is moving us on to perfection in and through all of this that we are having to endure. He is an awesome and gracious God, loving us to the ultimate degree. Praise Him and love Him with all of your heart, mind, and soul!!! Bless His Holy name!!!

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Valley Isle Fellowship
251 Pualalea Circle
Wailuku, HI 96793
"Thank you"



Love. Grow. Serve.

MISSION NEWS

NAMB Missionary Spotlight:



**PRICE AND ARRICA
WRIGHT**

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Pray

for us to trust God's timing in every step and effort we take. Pray we would not walk forward without the leading of the Spirit.

Kansas City, MO
2,027,428 people live in metro Kansas City
71% of the population is estimated as lost
1 SBC Church for every **7,565** Kansas City Residents

“Pray for plentiful harvest for our church planters. Pray God would raise up more church planting churches in Kansas City. Pray more respond to the call to plant in this city.” - Matt Miller, Kansas City Send City Missionary



International Mission Board

Connecting in Prayer

<https://www.imb.org/pray/>

* **Isolated Peoples of the Amazon Basin** - “Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us” (Psalm 62:8 ESV). “For many here and around the world, this has been a hard time of transition and loss -- loss of employment, expectations, stability, education, and health,” a member of the Tribal Training Team wrote. “The hardest hit people are those who were already barely getting by even before all the quarantines and restrictions. Many of the indigenous people that we serve are day laborers that were not able to work during the mandatory quarantine. We are thankful for the fish farm, partners in the U.S., and Baptist Global Response for giving us the opportunity to feed many people during the last few months. Pray for believers to continue to step-up and meet the physical and spiritual needs of those around them. Pray that God will be glorified and the church will be strengthened during these difficult times. Pray that many people will put their trust in God and find refuge in Him. He is our only hope.”

* **Conakry, Guinea** - (KON-ah-kree) - “In recent months, Guinea has fallen into a season of political unrest that is largely related to disunity among the different people groups. This, in turn, is disrupting every aspect of the city and country: education, commerce, and even, at times, our work with the local church. Disunity is rampant in Guinea, and as we work with the local church, we see how deep the problem of disunity runs not only within each church, but also between the different churches. We have been working to encourage unity between the churches by inviting them to different trainings we hold throughout the year. However, with the coronavirus, all trainings are currently on hold. We are now working to encourage these leaders from afar via social media and simple texts and phone calls. Would you ask the Lord to give us all wisdom as we lead in new ways? Would you ask Him to give these men a passion for their church so they will shepherd well the flock that the Lord has entrusted to them, especially in the midst of difficult times? Would you pray that they will seek unity in the body of Christ above all the cultural and educational differences that have always divided them in the past? Would you pray that the church will lead out as a testimony of the power of God’s love to change hearts by being an example of unity and brotherly love to the lost community around them?”

* **Minority Peoples of Kyrgyzstan** - Since January, you have been praying for a community in which some believers have been working with a local family and also with a clinic. The Lord is continuing to answer your prayers. Praise Him, for He has drawn a new woman into His family and is calling three more who are very curious and open! Please continue to lift up “Southerland,” as the evil one is also at work in that community. There is much community resistance to change, and persecution is already being directed toward anyone who even speaks with the believers or their local coworker. Please ask the Father to show them exactly how to proceed with boldness and wisdom. Also pray that His Spirit will continue to change lives!

Thy Kingdom Come

Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

Matthew 6:10 (KJV) Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

VIDEO: Ron Kenoly - We Declare that the Kingdom of God is Here (Live)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Pm6yoYekcM>

Parable of the Wheat and Weeds: (*Matthew 13:24-30*)

I. His KINGDOM _____. – (*Matthew 13:37-39*)

VIDEO: Ron Kenoly - This Kingdom (Live)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yal7z3LjdLc>

- A. Two types of _____.
- B. All about _____.
- C. Thoughts on _____.
- D. Thoughts on _____.

II. His WILL be _____. – (*Matthew 13:28-30*)

- A. His _____.
- B. His will be _____.
- C. His will, without _____.

VIDEO: MAY YOUR KINGDOM COME - Kirk Dearman

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUD-z7V_z5Q

III. As _____ in HEAVEN. – (*Matthew 13:40-43*) & (*Revelation 21:27*)

- A. Heaven is the _____ to set your _____ on.
- B. As it is _____ in Heaven, let it be _____ on earth.

VIDEO: Finding True Fulfillment in God – Liz's Testimony

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8oq642kTULw>

VIDEO: Build Your Kingdom Here - Rend Collective Experiment

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcSWpVKKMcS>