

PAIN IS TEMPORARY

But if I say, "I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot. (Jeremiah 20:9).

Interactive Questions:

- Have you ever felt put down as if it seems like there is no hope?
- Do you feel discouraged and fed up with the circumstances in your life?
- Are you passionate, but it feels like your fire is about to burn out?

Objectives:

- Understand that our current pain is temporary, but God's promises are eternal; and they will come to pass in God's time.
- Recover strength, courage and the Holy Spirit's fire in order to continue doing God's will.

Illustration: Martin Luther King was a messenger who brought the gospel to the United States during the civil rights movement. He was a pastor, civil rights leader and activist whom suffered tremendous persecution, but he did not give up. Although he was arrested, threatened, imprisoned, beaten and at the very end shot; the fire inside of his heart kept him persistent until justice was served. Just as Moses, King delivered his people out of slavery (segregation) and it was in his heart to do God's will. Eagles CFC, is also making history in the city of Las Vegas; despite the difficulties in life that try to quench our fire, we will not be silent. The Holy Spirit's fire in our hearts is also shut up in our bones and we believe that as we pursue God, the latter glory will be greater than the former glory.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GcwamzBELK4&index=1&list=PLF6D1995DAFDDA319>

Introduction: Sometimes problems in our life try to slow us down to the point where we will feel as if there is no motive to keep fighting for our dreams. Some of us are taking the gospel all around the world, but we are rejected, persecuted and criticized. Today we will learn about someone who felt even worst, but how his passion for God kept him persevering.

1. NEVER GIVE UP WHAT IS ETERNAL FOR WHAT IS TEMPORARY *Jer. 20:10-11*

- We should never focus on the temporary pain, because all it does is slow us down. We need to fix our eyes on God, in spite of our suffering; believing that after the storm the morning sun will rise up.
- We are preaching the Word of God, healing the sick, setting the captive free, yet the world rejects us. Jeremiah was going through a similar situation; and even though he was in a lot of pain, his passion kept him obedient to his purpose.
- If at any moment someone told you that once you came to church all your problems would end...that was a lie. Problems will never end as long as we are on earth; Jesus himself said that we would go through persecution.
- Prophet Jeremiah was extremely discouraged because of his suffering. He was beaten by the priest Passhur, put in jail and fettered. His best friends had turned their backs on him and Jeremiah began to complain against God (*Jeremiah 20:17*).
- The man of God was so disappointed that he began venting his bitter emotions; while running closer to God and recognizing that God is always good, despite our circumstances.

2. NEVER GIVE UP YOUR GLORIOUS FUTURE FOR YOUR PRESENT PAIN *Jer. 20:17-18*

- The man was so hurt that he began to curse the man who let his father know he was born. Why do we hurt others during our suffering? We should not blame others because of our pain.

- b. Jeremiah began to blame others because of his situation. Watch what you say during these times of your life; because these words are coming out of a wounded heart. We must guard our hearts and remember problems are inevitable, but we can always make the best out of every bad situation.
- c. Happiness is not subject to our circumstances; we can be happy as we see God's hand move in our life and as we obtain the victory He gives us.
- d. Maybe you are complaining and saying, "I have prayed and there is still no answer!" This is true...there still is no answer, but you already send the message and soon God will reply.

3. NEVER GIVE UP YOUR CALLING FOR THE DEVIL'S GAME *Prov. 24:16*

- a. Satan knows the calling God has placed over your life and he fears it. This is why he does anything in his power to put us down.
- b. Do not let the devil play you! The enemy is always using the same tricks to make us fall; he is not creative. We already know his games; therefore we must keep fighting in prayer and remembering that greater is He that is in us than he who is in the world.
- c. The enemy wants to silence us so that we no longer preach, sing to God and win souls. Jeremiah was struggling with his soul, but still he exalted God by saying, "*But the LORD is with me like a mighty warrior; so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail*" (*Jer. 20:11*).

4. NEVER DROWN YOUR FINAL VICTORY BECAUSE OF A CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCE *Jer. 20:12*

- a. Even though Jeremiah was complaining, the Holy Spirit comforted and strengthened him. "*You deceived me, LORD, and I was deceived; you overpowered me and prevailed*" (*Jer. 20:7*). The Holy Spirit moves our hearts and transforms us during the toughest moments of our lives.
- b. We need to get up and declare that we will not accept defeat. Jesus said to trust him, because He had already overcome the world!
- c. Our current reality is not our eternal reality; it is only the path towards our final destiny. There is something in you that this generation needs; and that is the fire in your heart, shut up in your bones, purposed to revive this generation! (*Jer. 29:11*).
- d. The Word of God is on our lips and God will answer us when we cry out to Him; therefore we should not be disappointed (*Jer. 33:3*). There will always be a fire in our hearts that will push us to fight for justice.
- e. We were not made to live quenched but instead lit with a passion for God and the house vision. Everything we face in life is purposeful, we should not question it, just believe it (*Habakkuk 2:2-3*).

Conclusion: The enemy has tried to keep you silent, but he has not been able to do it because passion is part of God's nature in you. If you have felt discouraged, disappointed or if it looks like everything around you is going downhill; then take a step of faith and pray the following prayer. Allow Jesus to fan the flame in you.

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Salvation Prayer

Lord Jesus, I recognize I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my heart and life so you can be my Lord and personal Savior, amen.