

## Grow Through What You Go Through

by Ewin Grace,  
Connections Pastor



*Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him—James 1:12 (ESV)*

Gold, like all precious metals, has to go through a lengthy and fiery process before it's purified and ready to be hammered into its

final form. Likewise a follower of Jesus has an uphill—and often quite rocky—journey to make us fit and formed to best reflect God's glory.

Some of the sweetest Christian brothers and sisters I've ever met were folks who I later found out had been through such genuine trials and adversities that I could hardly believe that this kind, smiling, Christ-like person before me had endured it. Two who come readily to mind are Timothy Chang who stood up for Christ in his small village in western China during the Cultural Revolution and was therefore imprisoned for 8 years. In the jail where he was detained, if your family member or friend didn't bring you food and necessities you would soon starve or die for want of medicine. By the time I met him years later in a midwestern U.S. city, he was as happy and peaceful as if he'd been born right there and had never undergone his nightmarish ordeal.

The other was Rev. Henry Mu, my Senior Pastor in the church of my first pastorate, San Francisco Mandarin Baptist, where I led the English Congregation. He had also been imprisoned and tortured in Mainland China for his faith in Jesus and his wife had even been murdered for her persistence in caring for him and bringing him food, hymnals, Bibles and news of friends. Again this wise, gentle servant of the Lord had a peace and love about him that I'd rarely seen.

Although both of these men may be in their heavenly mansions by now, my life was forever challenged, changed and influenced by them. Somehow, by the grace of God, they had determined to 'grow through what they had to go through.'

They counted it all joy. I'll spend the rest of my life trying to measure up to these amazing Christians who emerged from the Refiner's fire purified, and who surely received the Crown of Life our Lord has promised.



# Welcome to Journey!

EVANGELICAL CHURCH



We are blessed by the addition of new leader servants! Pc: Amy



## Order of Service

January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Welcome & Call To Worship ..... Elder Peter  
Worship..... Kyle & Congregation  
Sermon..... **Loving God: For Richer, For Poorer** ..... Pastor Ted  
Song of Response ..... Ted & Congregation  
Benediction ..... Pastor Phil Y.

## Sermon Outline

Pastor Ted • James 1:9–12

**9** Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, **10** and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. **11** For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits. **12** Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him.


### In trials...

1. ...the poor should glory in their high \_\_\_\_\_ position, 1:9
  - Dwell on our rich spiritual status instead of their low earthly status.
  - Rejoice in the spiritual benefits of trials
2. ...the rich should glory in their \_\_\_\_\_, 1:10-11
  - Rejoice in our humble status as ones associated with the lowly, rejected Christ
  - Recognize our mortality and repent
3. ...all believers should focus on \_\_\_\_\_ our love for God, 1:12  
*Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those **who love Him**.*

### Questions for discussion and reflection:

1. When do we cross the line between having riches and trusting in them? How can we keep in focus the vanity of wealth?
2. In what ways is poverty or wealth a test of faith? How are they similar and different?
3. If our love for Christ has grown cold, how can we revive it?
4. How can we grow more spiritual / less secular in our thinking, possessions, and pursuits?
5. What is the trajectory of your love for God: growing/plateaued/waning?

## Ways to get involved:

- Today: Basketball**, invite friends, play hard and clean, and be a gracious testimony.  
**Thank you, Sammie & Linzey** for your many years of serving and nurturing our youth! The youth and their parents super appreciate you and your love.
- 2/2–2/4: Youth Winter Retreat** (Forest Home, Ojai Valley) please pray for good lasting fruit our six youth and three counselors attending this retreat.
- 2/4: Scouts Day**: let's welcome Troop 1134 as they lead us in honoring our flag.
- 2/4: Bible Hour** begins with a new topic of Hermeneutics (twice a month, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun, 9am). Thank you Moon for leading us in the study of the book of Job!
- 2/9: Road Closure** (Friday, Bolsa, between Purdy & Neece) Young Adults & Youth / Parents of Youth please make a note of this.
- 2/11: Lunar NY Lunch**: to help, contact Moon at [moonhoanglee@gmail.com](mailto:moonhoanglee@gmail.com).
- 2/11: Super Bowl of Love & Listening Workshop** (after lunch, ages 9 to 99):  discover the 6<sup>th</sup> love language! All welcome, not just couples.
- 2/15: Women's Ministry Bible Study** (*Heart of God*, Francis Chan, 6:46-8:30pm, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs.): Contact Trudee Joe, [womensministry@JourneyEC.org](mailto:womensministry@JourneyEC.org) for details.
- 2/18: Help Journey grow** (12-12:45): everyone is encouraged to join us (mandatory for officers) for an enjoyable training, different from last year.
- 2/25: Baptism & Membership Class** (12:00-2:30): if you are interested in professing your faith or joining Journey's mission on Easter, email [amy@journeyec.org](mailto:amy@journeyec.org).



Welcoming a new guest to Journey after service

**Deacons**—Agnes Liu, Alan Hung, Allie Wong, Darryl Mu, Jeff Way, Pat Leung, Paulah Wong, Shirley Chun, Teresa Jue, Valerie Yee, Wesley Lin

**Elders**—Cliff Char, Hiro Kono, Joshua Cain, Peter Leung, Phil Jen Kin, Rick Chou, Ron Jue, Victor Wong

**Staff** <name@journeyec.org>

Ted Kau—Sr. Pastor, [ted@journeyec.org](mailto:ted@journeyec.org)

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Linzey Sun—Youth Intern

Sammie Sun—Youth Intern

Roger Yee—Administrator, [roger@j...](mailto:roger@j...)

Amy Mu—Office Assistant, [amy@j...](mailto:amy@j...)