

BEYOND DISCOURAGEMENT

"We must not become tired of doing good. We will receive our harvest of eternal life at the right time if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9 NCV

Focusing on heaven is an important key to experiencing joy amid trials. The richness of our inheritance should motivate us to bless God continually. We're aliens and strangers in this world, but we're citizens of heaven and recipients of immeasurable blessings in Christ.

Heavenly minded patience includes looking forward to our eternal inheritance and adoring God for it despite our temporal circumstances. Peter illustrated that principle in his first epistle, which was written to teach us how to live out our faith amid seemingly unbearable trials and persecutions.

We are God's "own special people," (1 Peter 2:9). As such we are at odds with Satan's evil world system, and we are vulnerable to its wrath. Therefore we shouldn't be surprised or intimidated by threats of persecution or hardship. That's our calling. In the tough times--which will come--we would do well to hold to that assurance and remember to praise God. Bowing in praise is far better than bowing to pressure.

Stay eager for Heaven!