

“Kingdom Resilience” – various passages

Sunday 12/9/18 – Dustin Pennington

Recap “Radical Return”

Introduction: Kingdom Resilience

Resilience:

1: the capability of a strained body to recover its size and shape after deformation caused especially by compressive stress. 2: an ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change.

Illustration: **Tardigrade** (Picture)

Tardigrades are among the most resilient known animals .5mm long. They are found in the harshest places on the planet: ocean depths to volcanoes. They are able to survive extreme conditions that would be rapidly fatal to nearly all other known life forms, such as exposure to extreme temperatures, extreme pressures (both high and low), air deprivation, radiation, dehydration, starvation, etc....

I. A Kingdom trait is incredible resilience

A. The challenge of living in the “thorns”

Matthew 13:22

And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and their worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

B. Notable examples of Kingdom Resilience

1. Paul

2 Corinthians 4:7-10

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; 8 we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

2. Nate Saint

a. Missionary Pilot along with a team including Jim Elliot set out to reach an unreached dangerous tribe in Ecuador, the

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Huaorani. Their entire team was speared on the beach January 8, 1956. Their resilience continued through their families resulting in many of the Huaorani coming to Jesus, including Mincaye, the one who killed Nate. Mincaye would later baptize Nate’s son Steven into the faith.

b. The heart of Kingdom Resilience is felt in this famous quote by Jim Elliot, “*He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.*” Jim Elliot

3. Uncle Roy

a. diabetic, nearly blind, amputee, heart failure to name a few. He lived to share the gospel, getting bibles in prisoner’s hands. Roy was in constant pain, but anytime you asked him how he was doing he would give a big smile and say, “joyfully blessed...”

-Were these three just part of an exclusive “Kingdom Seal Team 6” or can we all walk in this kind of resilience?

II. Is there a secret on how to walk in Kingdom Resilience?

A. “The Secret”

Philippians 4:11-13

*11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned **the secret** of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

B. Kingdom Resilience is born out of Contentment and Peace

1. This makes sense! We see this physiologically in what we call:

Homeostasis: (physiological peace)

The state of steady internal conditions maintained by living things. This dynamic state of equilibrium is the condition of optimal functioning for the organism and includes many variables, such as body temperature and fluid balance, being kept within certain pre-set limits.

-Internal and external stresses disrupt this peace and we can get sick

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C. Paul gives us the “secret” here:

(This is Paul’s grand modus operandi)

2 Corinthians 6:3-10

3 giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited, 4 but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, 5 in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, 6 in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, 7 in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, 8 by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; regarded as deceivers and yet true; 9 as unknown yet well-known, as dying yet behold, we live; as punished yet not put to death, 10 as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things.

1. Key Thought: In possessing nothing we dispossess polarity (we live above/transcend the “thorns”)
2. Polarity:
the state of having two opposite or contradictory tendencies, opinions, or aspects
3. This is the Fallen State resulting in being tossed back and forth - Doubled Minded (James 1:6-8)

1 Kings 18:2

Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.”

But the people said nothing.

4. In possessing nothing we discover HE possesses us
(The more I possess the more it tends to possess me. Resulting in me having to control, preserve and protect)
5. The illusion of “I am in control” is broken

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D. Our Citizenship has changed. We are no longer sourced out of the world system of polarity, but now from the Kingdom of Light

1. Key Scriptures:

Ecclesiastes 3:11

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Ephesians 2:6

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

2 Corinthians 1:22

set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Acts 17:28

In Him we live and move and have our being as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

2. We can live out of this place

3. The atmosphere of heaven is within us

4. The Tension: Our “already not yet” theology

(The kingdom is described in Scripture both as a realm presently entered and as one entered in the future)

5. Famous Quote “on earth we are afforded the chance to taste both heaven and hell”

III. How do we enter into this Reality?

A. When we own nothing we walk in the truth of Him owning us
(bought with a price)

Luke 14:33

So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

B. We enter through Humility

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1. Humility acknowledges I can't do this on my own I must be transformed.
2. The process of transformation is Dying with Christ in order to be raised to new life in Him

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

3. Humility Releases the Grace of God in our lives

1 Peter 5:5

Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

Conclusion:

Example of Belle Green

Unlike the Tardigrade's superior physiological resilience, born out of genetics, our Kingdom Resilience manifests from a place of rest and trust in Who owns and Who resides in us. Not from our efforts, less we become proud(Eph. 2:8-9). We breathe the atmosphere of a different city, one “whose architect and builder is God.”

Hebrews 11:10

For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Key Thought: The power of grace released in our lives transforms us from selfish to selfless

Isaiah 57:15

*For thus says the high and exalted One
Who lives forever, whose name is Holy,
“I dwell on a high and holy place,
And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit
In order to revive the spirit of the lowly
And to revive the heart of the contrite.*

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