

“Making Sense of Suffering”
1 Peter 1:6-9

Psalm 34:19

1 Peter 1:1-5 Peter’s letter begins “with words of wonder and worship instead of worry.” Peter starts with God.

1 Peter 1:6-9 (Trials and Joy Go Together)

1 Peter 1:1-2:10 God’s Grace and Salvation:

Thought of Our Passage: “Genuine Faith Must Be Tested, Because A Faith That Can’t Be Tested Certainly Can’t Be Trusted”

1. Verses 6-7 Preparation For Future Glory:

2. Verses 8-9 Enjoying Future Glory Now:

1. Verses 6-7 Preparation For Future Glory:

1 Peter 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice,

In What do “You Greatly Rejoice?” The word **“this”** refers back to the “Salvation” (the return of Christ) mentioned in **1 Peter 1:5**

you greatly rejoice, in Verse 8 you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, (1 Peter 4:13) Peter says, **you greatly rejoice**, speaks of “a jubilant and thankful exultation, to leap with joy” implies an outward expression of this joy. (This word is an exclusive religious word which was not used in Greek secular writings) Used to express both corporate and individual attitudes of joy towards God! Jesus used it **Matthew 5:12**

even though *this indicates that the believer’s joy is unconditional.* It does not depend upon circumstances surrounding us. (We should rejoice in spite of the fact that times are difficult.)

6 Truths About Trials:

- 1. Trials Are For A Short Time: now for a little while,** Trials do not last forever; “they are for a season” or “little, small, few” **2 Corinthians 4:17**

Psalm 30:5

- 2. Trials Fulfill A Need: if necessary,** *indicates that there are special times when God knows that we need to go through trials.*

Sometimes Trials Are Used To Discipline Us When We Have Disobeyed God's Will - Psalm 119:67

Trials Prepare Us For Spiritual Growth, Or Even Help To Prevent Us From Sinning - (2 Corinthians 12:1-9)

Trials Force Us To See Our Helplessness, Making Us Dependent Upon God - 2 Corinthians 12:9

2 Corinthians 11:24-28

3. Trials Are Painful: you have been distressed

The word means, *"to experience grief or pain, sorrow."* Trials produce *"heaviness"*

4. Trials Come In Various Forms: by various trials, which literally means, *"variegated, many-colored"* we get our word *"Polka dot"* He used the same word to describe God's grace in **1 Peter 4:10**

1 Corinthians 10:13

Literally, "You are in grief and sorrow because of the many-colored testing's confronting you."

James 1:2 Consider (count) This word is an accounting term. It means *"to evaluate" it is an honest assessment of the figure. It is looking at the hardship from a heavenly or spiritual perspective. (That is producing something of value)*

Our values determine our evaluation.

1. Am I living for comfort? My trials will upset me.

2. Am I living for Character? I can see value in my trials. Consider it all joy, my brethren, I can go through with joy knowing that it is good.

1 Peter 1:6

As we look at this subject of trials there are **3 things** that we are to remember:

1. Trials are the common experience of all of people.

No one escapes. Sickness, accidents, domestic, tragedies, loneliness.

2. Trials are transitory. 1 Peter 1:6

3. Trials teach lessons that shouldn't be wasted. Pressure produces.

1 Peter 1:7

5. Trials Prove Your Faith: so that the proof of your faith, the word "**proof**" or **trial** – means "*proving, testing, genuineness*" a Greek word that literally means "*to put someone to the test with the expectation of showing that he is worthy of being approved*" or "*your genuine faith, your faith when proved to be genuine*"

Used in NT times to describe the final examination of all medical students passed before they were given the right to set up their own practices"

The purpose of testing is for 2 reasons: Proving and Purifying

so that the proof of your faith, "sterling quality of faith"

(Fire does not destroy gold, it proves it)

Job 23:10; Psalm 66:10

***being* more precious than gold which is perishable,**

Priceless. The best metal that the world has to offer but at best it is temporal.

6. Trials Purify Your Faith: even though tested by fire, An Eastern goldsmith kept the metal in the furnace until he could see his face reflected in it. So, our Lord keeps us in the furnace of suffering until we reflect the glory and beauty

may be found to result in praise

This praise will come from the approval of the Righteous Judge.

and glory - the privilege that God will give to His faithful people in which *He will share His divine splendor and majesty.*

and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

This speaks of the rank or position of privilege.

1 Peter 1:7 (NLT2) These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

Matthew 25:21; Romans 8:16-18

2. Verses 8-9 Enjoying Future Glory Now:

1 Peter 1:8

4 Ways To Enjoy Future Now:

- 1. Loving Jesus: and though you have not seen Him, you love Him,** Note Peter did not say “We” **have not seen Him**, because they had not seen Jesus, but Peter had! **John 12:37**

Paul said it this way, **2 Corinthians 5:16**

We have an advantage over the 1st Century Christians. John 20:29

Our love for God is based on our spiritual relationship with Him and what the Word has taught us about Him. 1 John 4:19

Romans 5:5

- 2. Trusting Jesus: and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him,** - We must live by faith and not by sight.

Love and Faith go together: when you love someone, you trust them. And faith and love together help to strengthen hope; for where you find faith and love, you will find confidence for the future.

Faith means surrendering all to God and obeying His Word in spite of circumstances and consequences.

- 3. Rejoicing In Jesus: you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,** – Same as **1 Peter 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice**, speaks of “*a deep emotion, a spiritual joy that is deep and personal*”

Each experience of trial helps us learn something new and wonderful about our Saviour. Paul learned the sufficiency of God’s grace (**2 Corinthians 12**).

Joshua before he conquered Canaan. **Joshua 5:13-15**

with joy inexpressible - The only time in the NT this word is used - Note that the joy God produces *is a joy so deep and so wonderful there are no adequate words to describe it, that no human words can exhaust it. Words fail us!*

and full of glory, - Peter had seen a glimpse of the glory on the Mount of Transfiguration there with Jesus (**Luke 9:28-36**)

1 Peter 1:9

- 4. Receiving From Jesus: obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.** - *"For you are receiving the consummation of your faith, that is, the final salvation of your souls."* Salvation is the goal, a complete salvation, which is the state of glorification.

**Peter is saying that we can actually Enjoy Future Glory Now:
(Present Reality and a Future Expectation to our salvation!)**

Application:

- 1.** It Is Consoling To Know That God's People Are Never Needlessly Afflicted.
- 2.** The Purpose Of God's Testing's Is For Proving And Purifying.
Too Many Professing Christians Have A False Faith And This Will Be Revealed In The Trials Of Life.
- 3. 1 Peter 1:6 if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,**
Trials Are Varied, And God Matches The Trials To Our Strengths And Needs.
- 4.** Peter Urged His Readers To Exercise Love, Faith, And Rejoicing, So That They Might Experience The Future Glory Of Heaven In Their Present Suffering.