

## 1 Peter: Our Hope in Trials 2024-03-24

### 1 Peter 1:6-7

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*In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,*

*7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

**We are different** in many ways. **All** know **suffering and trials**. 1 Peter is the **key** to **Christian** to have **joy midst suffering**.

**Written** from “**Babylon**” most likely **code** name for **Rome**. 5:13, Revelations 16:19, 17:5, 18:2

- **Written 62-67 AD to Gentile Christians in Asia Minor** (Turkey) facing **deadly persecution**.
  - **Pre-Nero persecution** yet world **hostile toward Christians**. See outline at the end.
- **Main themes: Holy living in hostile world; hope in midst of suffering.**
  - Suffering and trials are **not surprises or random but ordained** by God for a **purpose**.

**Various forms** of trials and **unjust suffering** in 1 Peter: **relational**, **spiritual**, **emotion**, and **physical**.

- God **even** use **sinful acts** for his own **holy designs**: Jesus’ **crucifixion**.
  - **However**, he **never commands sin** or **approves** of sinning.

**Christianity** is **life** of tremendous, **abiding joy** if we keep in mind we are **chosen**, **born again** to **living hope**, and have permanent, **heavenly inheritance**. 1 Peter 1:3-4,

- This sure, living hope **brings joy** that **sustains** us in **midst of suffering**.

**Not just** look **future for hope** but **reasons to rejoice today**. 1 Peter 1:6, 4:12-13, 2 Corinthians 4:17

- “Little while” means **expected but temporary trials and pain**, in **comparison** to **eternity**.
- “If **GOD** deems necessary” means **trials ordained** by **God**.
  - **Encourage**: God **does not try** people **without reason**.

**Connection** between **hardship** and **holiness**: **refine** gold and **remove impurities**.

- **Impurities** are **areas** in us **not Jesus-like**: **ungrateful**, **greedy**, **bitter**, or **angry**.
  - **Faith and character proven genuine** by **enduring and trusting** in God, in **hardship**, not just in good times. James 1:2-4, Romans 5:2-5, See C.S. Lewis quote at end.

**God’s purpose** in **trials and suffering**: **faith** more **pure**, **genuine** and **more like Jesus Christ**... who is the **foundation** and **example** for **joy amidst trials**.

1 Peter 1:7-8, 2:20-21

- “You love Him” implies continual experiencing and abiding in Jesus.
- “Believe in Him” means trusting Jesus as being faithful to all his promises.

Sense of regularly resting in and enjoying Jesus brings unique type of rejoice.

- “Inexpressible” only here in New Testament: beyond power of words to describe.
- “Filled with glory” Old Testament reference to radiance that surrounded God’s presence.
  - Heaven before heaven, experienced now in fellowship with unseen Jesus.... standing with us in furnace of suffering and trials.

Hundreds of people in Jesus’ lifetime saw him physically yet never really saw him. "Seeing they did not see," *Matthew 13:13, John 9:39, 20:29*

- But by God’s grace, thru Scripture we see Jesus far deeper than most who saw him face to face.
  - Because we see Jesus with eyes of the heart through the Word, you love and trust him, and now (progressively) receive goal of it all.... salvation.
- God does everything to guarantee eternal salvation by sustaining our faith. 1 Peter 1:4-5
  - The word “guard” is present participle, meaning continually being guarded by God’s power.

World increasingly hostile to Christian faith, biblical worldview, and morality.

- Divine plan IS trials and suffering... His plan is endurance, not escape. *2 Corinthians 12:7-10*
- Christians find hope and joy in sovereign design of suffering and trials: more Jesus-like, depending on God.
  - By grace we cling to the Lord and trust Him in midst trials and unjust suffering.
    - When holy refining over, precious gold produced that is of greatest beauty and usability and brings great glory to God.

### Outline of 1 Peter

- 1:1–2:12 OUR SALVATION AS BELIEVERS
  - 1:1–2 Peter’s Greeting
  - 1:3–12 Salvation: Our Hope for Times of Trial
  - 1:13–2:12 Sanctification: Living Out Our Hope
    - 1:13–21 Be Holy
    - 1:22–25 Love One Another
    - 2:1–10 Desire the Word
    - 2:11–12 Abstain from Sinful Lusts
- 2:13–3:12 OUR SUBMISSION AS BELIEVERS
  - 2:13–17 To Ruling Authorities

2:18–25 In Business Matters  
3:1–8 In the Marriage Relationship  
3:9–12 In All Areas of the Christian Life  
3:13–5:14 OUR SUFFERING AS BELIEVERS  
3:13–17 Endure Suffering Patiently  
3:18–4:6 Jesus is Our Example  
4:7–19 How to Endure Suffering  
5:1–5 Instructions to Elders  
5:6–11 Humility and Victory  
5:12–14 Final Greetings

*“We are, not metaphorically but in very truth, a Divine work of art, something that God is making, and therefore something with which He will not be satisfied until it has a certain character.”*

**CS Lewis**