



"BUT WILL WITH THE
TEMPTATION ALSO
 MAKE A WAY TO
 ESCAPE . . ."

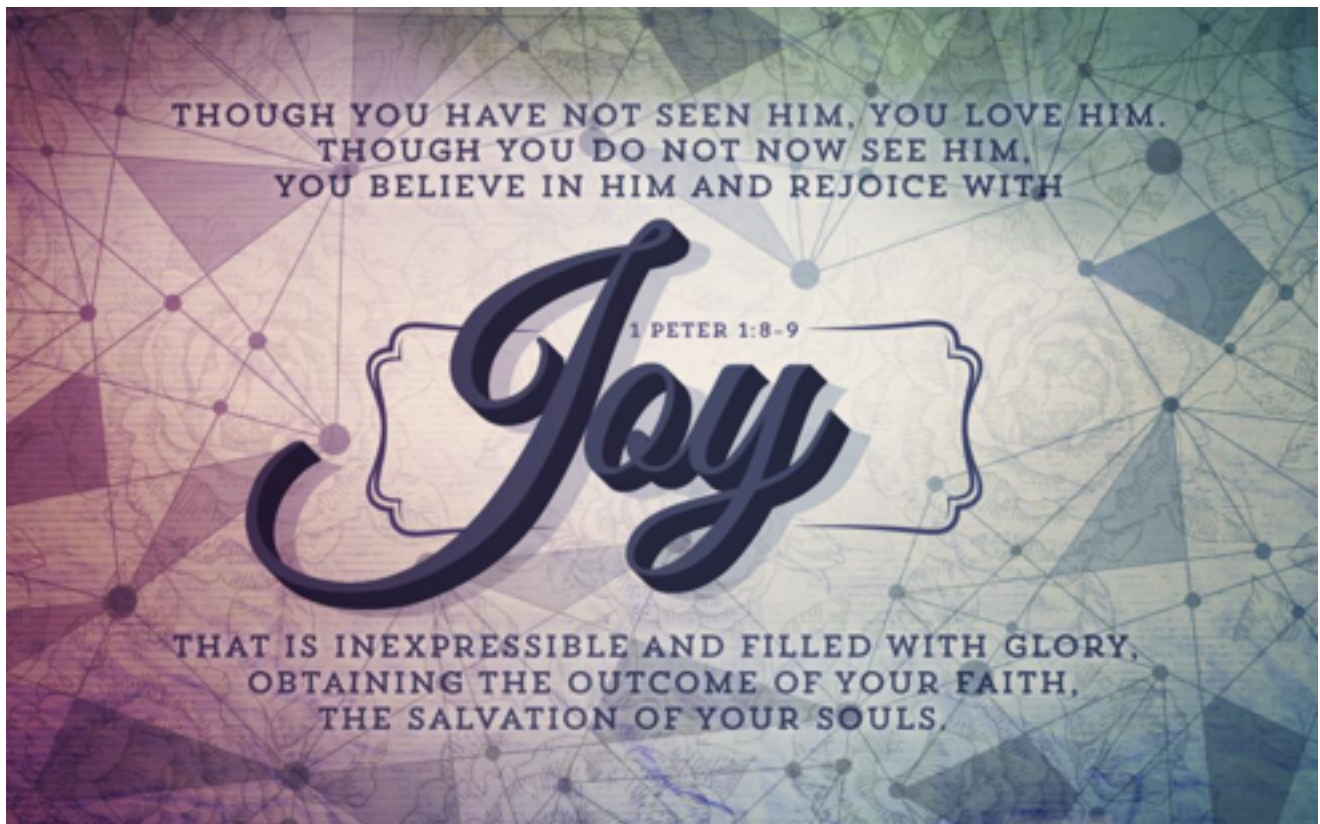


"BLESSED IS THE
 MAN THAT ENDURETH
TEMPTATION."



"MY GRACE IS
SUFFICIENT FOR THEE:
 FOR MY STRENGTH IS
 MADE PERFECT IN
 WEAKNESS."

SALVATION'S JOY



1 Peter 1:6-9

Peter's goal is to have believers understand the joy that should be theirs in light of the eternal life they have been given. This is not just a New Testament phenomenon. The Old Testament has many examples of ones joy over their salvation.

Psalm 43:3-4 – “O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles. ⁴ **Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God my God.**”

Even Peter wrote,

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: ¹³ **But rejoice**, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, **ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.** ¹⁴ If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, **happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you:** on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified” - 1 Peter 4:12-15.

Salvation’s joy is not some brief shallow circumstantial emotion, but rather it is something permanent and profound. Mere happiness comes from positive external events, but salvation’s joy results from the deep-rooted confidence that one possesses eternal life from the living God through the crucified and risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

No one enjoys being around miserable people. Unfortunately, way too many professing Christians display misery, anger, and bitterness over the circumstances that overtake them, rather than the joy they should have as children of God.

Think of the many circumstances we experience in life: financial difficulties, unruly children, loss of jobs, accidents, illness, death of loved ones, false accusations, ridicule, injustices, etc. In every event we should find the peace of God and rejoice in His comfort and strength.

“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”

Our passage will examine five areas that bring joy, even amidst the most severe trials.

What kind of testimony will we have if we walk around being miserable, self-absorbed and hopeless? What would we be saying about our faith?

STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. 1 Peter 1:6a opens with the phrase, “Wherein ye greatly rejoice . . .” It is an intense expression meaning, “to be supremely and abundantly happy.” What are we to greatly rejoice in when facing severe trials?

a. “Wherein”

The term “wherein” means, *in this*. It points to the previous context found in 1 Peter 1:1-5. Peter is reminding his readers to rejoice in their blessings from God.

- 1) We should rejoice in our election, which is according to the foreknowledge of God the Father - v. 2a.
- 2) We should rejoice in the sanctification of the Spirit, which will lead us to obedience - v. 2b.
- 3) We should rejoice in the cleansing through the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ - v. 2c.
- 4) We should rejoice in the grace and peace that was multiplied unto us through Jesus Christ - v. 2d.
- 5) We should rejoice in God’s abundant mercy wherein He gave us new birth and a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead - v. 3.
- 6) We should rejoice in our inheritance in Christ which is incorruptible, and undefiled, that will not fade away which is reserved for us in heaven - v. 4.
- 7) We should rejoice in the guarantee of our eternal security because we are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation which is ready to be revealed in the last time - v. 5.

b. “Greatly Rejoice”

- 1) In the Greek the term, “**greatly rejoice**” is an intense expression meaning *to be supremely and abundantly happy*.
- 2) Jesus used this same expression in Matthew 5:11-13, when He said, “Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. ¹² **Rejoice, and be exceeding**

glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. ¹³ Ye are the salt of the earth”

Peter added intensity to this phrase by using it in the **present tense** saying *we should be continually joyful and happy*.

c. **How do we “greatly rejoice?”**

1) **We Have The Presence of the Holy Spirit:**

Derived from the previous context [i.e. our election, our sanctification, our cleansing, God’s grace and peace, our inheritance and the keeping power of the Holy Spirit] we should be able to stand firm in our faith.

All genuine believers should be able to endure fiery trials because they are indwelt with the Holy Spirit. He serves as a pledge or seal, guaranteeing our eternal heritage.

Ephesians 1:13-14 – “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

2) **We Have The Promise of Reward:**

A very similar exhortation was given to the diaspora in Hebrews 10:32-36. They were to stand firm amidst their trials by remembering their promised reward.

“But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; ³³ Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. ³⁴ For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, *knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.* ³⁵ *Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.* ³⁶ For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.”

No matter the circumstances, we can greatly rejoice in the future hope found in our risen Savior and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

2. What can we learned from the following terms? “. . . though now for a season” - v. 6a; “. . . if needs be” - v. 6b (if necessary); “ye are in heaviness” - v. 6c; “through manifold temptations:” - v. 6d.

1) **“... though now for a season”**

Trials are short when compared to eternity. Our trials will pass quickly, as does our time on this earth. Paul calls them “momentary.”

“For our light affliction, which is but for a **moment**, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” - 2 Corinthians 4:17

2) **“... if needs be” - v. 6b** (if necessary)

Trials come when they serve a purpose in our lives. See question #3 for more details on this point.

3) **“ye are in heaviness” - v. 6c**

Trials refine us, but with refining comes pain.

a) Heaviness refers to physical and emotional pain. It includes anguish, sadness, sorrow, disappointment and anxiety.

b) Trials by nature are painful. By God’s design, the pain that comes along with trials are used as instruments to refine His children. The positive affects of trials can reshape us in such a way that we will be of greater use spiritually.

Illustration:

Dr. Paul Brand was born in India to missionary parents and spent most of his life caring for people who couldn’t feel pain - people with leprosy. He spent much of life studying pain. At one point he was given a grant to develop a system of warning that would protect people who couldn’t feel pain. So he worked on a glove that would make a sound or have lights that flickered when the hand was in danger. He discovered that even though the person would receive the warning, they would not change their course from the dangerous action without a negative consequence like pain screaming for them to stop what they were doing.

One of Dr. Brand's greatest discoveries was that people with leprosy do not have "bad flesh" that just rots away. Actually, their flesh is healthy. The problem is nerve endings that have died. With the death of their nerve endings comes the inability to sense danger to their bodies. Lepers live pain free.

Don't you wish you could live life in the absence of pain? The absence of pain is the greatest enemy of the leper. Again and again they harm their bodies without even knowing it. They have no system of pain to warn them.

Dr. Brand knew that lepers often went blind. Why? Because they didn't blink. They didn't blink because they didn't feel the pain that we feel when our eyes dry out. He was also puzzled by the fact that lepers often lost fingers and toes overnight. He knew that they weren't simply disappearing into thin air, so he commissioned workers to observe the lepers sleeping. To the surprise of the workers, they found that rats would come in and nibble the exposed fingers and toes. The lepers, who did not feel pain, never awoke to brush away the rats.

**“Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all”
– Psalm 34:19.**

Dr. Brand found himself at one time with an area of skin that seemed numb. He was unable to feel pain. He stuck a pin in this spot (just below his ankle) and felt nothing. He plunged it in deeper and a drop of blood spilled out and still he felt nothing. He went to bed that night assuming the worst - that he had himself contracted leprosy. The thought of it was devastating. The next morning he arose, jabbed that same spot again with the pin. This time he yelled.

Thank God for pain!

PAIN IS A GIFT. ONE THAT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO BE GRATEFUL FOR, BUT IMAGINE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE DIDN'T HAVE PAIN SCREAMING AT US THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG.

So far our passage teaches us that trials are short when compared to eternity. Trials help refine us, but with refining comes pain.

- 4) **“... through manifold temptations”** -. v6d
 - a) Trials will come in many different forms. Manifold means “many colors.” It is impossible to list all the trials that may befall us. However, we have a sovereign God who is able to help us in every situation. Therefore, we can be confident that everything has a purpose and will work together for His glory.
 - b) In 1 Peter 1:7 we are told an additional reason for trials

“that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire. . .”

c) We can see this in Exodus 16:4 –

“Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, **that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.**”

d) Also in Deuteronomy 8:2 –

“And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, **to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.**”

e) As well as with the life of Job.

3. Trials come when they serve a purpose in our lives. List some of the biblical reasons for trials?

a. God uses trials **to humble us** – 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

“And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. ⁸ For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. ⁹ And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.”

b. God uses trials **to wean us** away from worldly things and repoint us towards heaven – John 16:33

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

c. God uses trials **to teach us** to value His blessings – 1 Peter 4:13

“But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.”

d. God uses trials **to chasten us** for our sins – 1 Cor. 11:30

“For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.”

e. God uses trials **to enable us to help others** – 2 Cor. 1:3-7

“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; ⁴ Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are

comforted of God. ⁵ For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. ⁶ And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. ⁷ And our hope of you is stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation.”

f. God uses trials **to help strengthen our spiritual character** – Romans 5:3

“And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience.”

In summary, God uses trials to humble us, to wean us away from the world, to teach us to value His blessings, to chasten us, to enable us to help others and to strengthen us.

AN AFRICAN PROVERB SAYS, “SMOOTH SEAS DO NOT MAKE SKILLFUL SAILORS.”

So . . . trials are short when compared to eternity. They are also use by God to serve a purpose in our life.

4. How do trials bring praise to God and also elicit His praise towards us?

1 Peter 1:7b - “. . . might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ”

- a. Our faith will be revealed as we go through our trials. The focus of this passage is in the commendation that we will receive of the Lord in that great day ahead. It says we will be “found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.” In other words, our trials bring praise to God and also elicit His praise towards us.
- b. Examples of this is found in other many passages:

Matthew 24:47 – “Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. ⁴⁷ Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.”

Matthew 25:21-25 – “His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. ²² He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. ²³ His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”

Matthew 25:34 – “Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”

- c. True saving faith results in good works and receive commendation from the Lord. In 1 Peter 1:7b it is a three-fold tribute – **praise, honor and glory**. It is received at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

5. In what way does our positive response to trials affect our relationship with Christ?

“Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory” – 1 Peter 1:8.

- a. Love and trust are two crucial ingredients in any meaningful relationship. In this verse both aspects are seen.
 - 1) “Whom having not seen, ye love” = **love**
 - 2) “In whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing” = **trust**
- b. By faith we accept the revelation of the written word of God. The closer we draw to Christ, the greater the fellowship and comfort. In this fellowship with Christ we find joy. Therefore, we should rejoice in our present deliverance.

“Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls” – 1 Peter 1:9.

INSIGHTS:

- 6. In your experience, what is the greatest struggle you have when facing trials? How does Peter’s letter help you?**

- 7. What helpful insights can you offer others facing trials?**