

1 Pet. 1:6-7: 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 & glory & honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Intro: The last two Sundays we've considered several of the amazing privileges we have as God's children: chosen, sanctified, cleansed, obedient, born again, living hope, an amazing inheritance, & we are guarded by God! Jesus Christ is mentioned 4 times, another time today! All of this moves Peter to bless the LORD! & today Peter starts by writing, "In this you rejoice!" Amen!

God sends you trials that test your faith, & your proven faith will be rewarded & praised by God as you rejoice in Him forever!

1. God Sends You Various Trials For Your Good

1 Pet. 1:6: In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials

a. What are trials?: Suffering; pain; hardship; loss; **Elisabeth Elliot:** Suffering is having what you don't want or wanting what you don't have.

b. God sends you various trials: Where do I get that from these verses? "if necessary" Peter is not saying: "If by chance!" or "If that's what life throws at you!" No. He is saying: "If it is God's will"; "If God decrees it as necessary."

- **1 Pet. 3:17:** it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

- **1 Pet. 4:19:** Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

- **Amos 3:6:** Does disaster come to a city, unless the LORD has done it?

- **Lam. 3:37-38:** Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come?

- **Job 1:21-22:** he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, & naked shall I return. The LORD gave, & the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong. **[Joseph]**

c. God has a purpose for your trials: Another reason we know these trials are sent by God is because we are told God has a purpose for them: **V. 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 & glory & honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

John Piper: Peter is teaching that the sovereign will of God governs all the distresses that happen to us &, therefore the design in them is not ultimately the design of evil men or the design of Satan (which are real enough!), but is a design of God . . . The design is that our distresses would refine the genuineness of our faith the way fire refines gold so that when Christ comes back, the quality

of our faith would win praise & glory & honor. So there is a design in your distresses as a Christian. God wills them, & he does so for your good.

- **2 Tim. 3:12:** Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted
- **Acts 14:22:** through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.
- **1 Pet. 4:12-13:** Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

d. You are enabled to rejoice, even in your trials: Because you are chosen, sanctified, cleansed, obedient, born again, have a living hope, own an amazing inheritance kept by God (you have God!), & are guarded by God, you can rejoice no matter what! Because you know every trial is working in your life for your good – to make you more like Jesus Christ – you can rejoice!

- **Rom. 5:3-5:** we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, & endurance produces character, & character produces hope, & hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

- **Jas. 1:2-4:** Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. & let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect & complete, lacking in nothing.

- **2 Cor. 4:17:** For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison

- **Rom. 8:18:** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

- **2 Cor. 6:10:** as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing

- **Acts 16:25:** About midnight Paul & Silas were praying & singing hymns to God

e. All your trials are only for a little while: V. 6: though now for a little while; Not that all your trials in life will be short lived – they may last the rest of your life! But even if they do, compared to eternity, they are only for a little while! Jesus is coming back!

- **Writer:** All your sufferings have an expiration date!

William Gurnall (Be strong!): Behold, some, enduring with you here below a great flight of afflictions & temptation, take heaven by storm & force. Others you may see after many assaults, repulses, & rallyings of their faith & patience, got upon the walls of heaven, conquerors, from whence they do, as it were, look down, & call you, their fellow brethren on earth, to march up the hill after them, crying aloud: “Fall on, & the city is your own, as now it is ours, who for a few days' conflict are now crowned with heaven's glory, one moment's enjoyment of which hath dried up all our tears, healed all our wounds, & made us forget the sharpness of the fight, with the joy of our present victory.”

God sends you trials that test your faith, & your proven faith will be rewarded & praised by God as you rejoice in Him forever!

2. Your Tested Faith Will Result In Praise, Glory, And Honor For You

1 Pet. 1:6-7: 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 & glory & honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

a. Your tested, purified faith is more precious than gold: Your faith is like gold in that it is being purified by fiery trials & shown to be genuine! But it is more precious than gold because it does not perish like gold!

John Piper: When gold is melted in the fire the impurities float to the top & can be removed. When the refining fire is over, the gold is even more valuable. So it is with your faith in God. You have faith. You trust his promises. But there are impurities in it. There are elements of murmuring & pessimism (I speak from painful experience). & there are tendencies to trust money & position & popularity alongside God – dirt mingled with the gold of faith. These impurities in our faith hinder our fullest experience of the goodness & greatness of God. So God designs to refine our faith with the fires of trial & distress. His aim is that our faith be more pure & more genuine. That is, that it be more utterly dependent on him & not on things and other persons for our joy.

- 2 Cor. 1:8-9: For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

We still have bits of Pharisee & God-hating in us! We must be purified! But our faith is forever!

- Matt. 8:5-10: When he had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, ⁶ "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly." ⁷ & he said to him, "I will come & heal him." ⁸ But the centurion replied, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, & my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. & I say to one, 'Go,' & he goes, and to another, 'Come,' & he comes, & to my servant, 'Do this,' & he does it." ¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.

- Spurgeon: Faith is a sword. But it was not made to exhibit upon a parade ground. It was meant to cut and wound and slay. Whoever has it may expect, between here and heaven, to learn what battle means. God has made nothing in vain; he especially makes nothing in the spiritual kingdom in vain. He made faith with the intent that it should be used to the utmost and exercised to the full. We must expect trial because trial is the element of faith. Faith without trial is like a diamond uncut, the brilliance of which has never been seen. A fish without water or a bird without air is faith without trial. We may surely expect that our faith will be tested.

- Matt. 15:28: "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." & her daughter was healed instantly. [Do you have faith? Knowledge, Assent, Trust; **GOSPEL!**]

b. Your most precious faith will bring you praise, glory, & honor from God when Jesus comes back: V. 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 & glory & honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1) This is about the day of judgment – this is what will happen at the revelation of Jesus Christ when He comes back: **2 Pet. 3:10, 14:** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, & then the heavens will pass away with a roar, & the heavenly bodies will be burned up & dissolved, & the earth & the works that are done on it will be exposed . . . ¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, & at peace.

2) Your tested & genuine faith will bring you praise, glory, & honor from God: **Rom. 2:7, 10, 29:** to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory & honor & immortality, he will give eternal life . . . ¹⁰ glory & honor & peace for everyone who does good . . . ²⁹ But a Jew is one inwardly, & circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God. [**MacArthur:** Verbal commendation; perfection; rewards]

- **1 Pet. 5:4:** when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

- **Rom. 8:17:** if children, then heirs – heirs of God & fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

- **1 Cor. 4:5:** Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

3) God will get glory from the glory of your genuine, tested faith: Your faith is a gift from God:

- **Eph. 2:8-9:** For by grace you have been saved through faith. & this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- **Phil. 1:29:** For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake

John Piper: When Jesus appears in glory, two things are going to happen. His glory will be magnificently reflected in the mirror of our faith. He will be the trusted one & the hoped-for one & the rejoiced-in one. So his glory will shine in our faith & hope & joy. & the more pure & refined the gold of our faith, the more clearly his beauty & worth will be reflected. But since God exalts all that exalts him, he will give praise & honor & glory to our faith. He will say, “Well done, good & faithful servant.” He will give us (as Peter says in 5:4) “the unfading crown of glory”. & we will see finally that the design of God in our distress has been the extraordinary joy of sharing in the very glory & praise & honor of God himself.

God sends you trials that test your faith, & your proven faith will be rewarded & praised by God as you rejoice in Him forever!

Jesus: Jesus encountered various trials; Jesus’ faith was tested; Jesus endured; Jesus obtained salvation for you! **Heb. 2:13:** “I will put my trust in him.” [**Hymn 618:** When Trials Come]

Christ Jesus' Trials Were Pains So Great
He Cried, The Cup, To Pass Prostrate
His Faith Was Perfect – Fires Await
Of God's Own Wrath – The Curse Full Weight
He Died And Rose To Set Things Straight
Now Death Is Dead – All Bad Negate
By Faith Alone He Does Create

New Creation – No More Hate
Rejoice! Glory! Praise! Await
Oh We Love Him – Heaven's Gate
Salvation Of Our Souls Elate
So Now Our Joys Endure And Wait
For Jesus' Trials Were Pains So Great!