

Hope and Holiness - Living Proof – 1 Peter 1:6-9 – March 1, 2026 | Welcome People

As we turn to 1 Peter – I want call your attention back as a reminder to our previous section

V. 3 'according to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead' (Explain)

Peter is addressing 'Elect Exiles' who are experiencing great trials and hardships

This verse to be the framework of our message today where we are talking about trials

Unless you have been born again...everlasting hope...no hope experiencing trials w/ hope

Living Proof - Life serves as tangible evidence of reality of Jesus & the power of the Gospel

- There is never time where your voice is louder for the kingdom than experiencing trials
Have you ever felt like every moment of your life is a trial that won't end?
 - Youth Ministry Game – Supposed to throw balls into buckets...all of them came at me
- Sometimes life feels less like a smooth journey and more like a crucible – Severe Test Changes

When in Middle of trial— financial ruin, a devastating diagnosis, or a broken relationship
Feels impossible to see purpose behind the pain. We ask, "Why is this happening to me?"

Peter shifts our perspective – Not random acts cruelty – Purposeful actions of refinement

Big Idea - God Uses Our Struggles to Prove the Authenticity of Our Faith

Oswald Chambers - "When God gets us alone through suffering, heartbreak, temptation, disappointment, sickness, or by thwarted friendship... then He begins to teach us."

Trials and Tribulations become our Testimony

Peter argues same fire that brings pain today is producing the fuel for our testimony tomorrow

- This "fiery trial" is testing the genuineness of our faith—like gold is refined in a furnace
- The goal is to make faith stronger, purer, and bring more glory to Jesus
⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so 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. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Remember – Peter writing to Christians who scattered all over roman providences (Turkey)

- The recipients were facing various forms of suffering and hostility for their faith
 - **Socially Ostracized** - Systematic, state-sponsored persecution by Roman government
 - **Being "Different"** – Backs...contemporaries (Jews) | Idol (Greco Roman) Us More

Today, we look at how we can move from merely surviving our trials to utilizing them

Through power of HS things that threaten our faith can become cornerstone of our testimony

1. Faith Rejoices in Trials (6)

⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, Great paradoxes (Seems Contradictory) - Joy exists simultaneously with intense suffering

How many of you were led for Christ with that gospel pitch...gonna suffer...joy

- It really is a great evangelistic tool! The world is suffering...don't know why or how
 - **The 'Why'** = That we live in a fallen world | **The 'How'** is with joy provided by the Lord
- World tells you happiness dependent on circumstances...Peter radically different approach

⁶In this you rejoice, you have been grieved by various trials,

- **Though now for a little while** - Compared to eternity, our trials are fleeting
- Tug Fest – 2700 ft long – Weighs 750lbs – Black marker...place a dot...whole life vs eternity
I know that your suffering feels like it will never end...In Christianity all things end awesome

- **If Necessary** – Profound statement...and if you're going through trials...not necessary

- Two reasons: First it is inevitable – The Second...it if for your good

First – We live in a fallen world that is destroyed by the wages of sin...trials will come

Second – Speaks of purpose...God doesn't let single trial happen without being for good

- **Grieved by various trials** - Peter affirms that trials *hurt*

- "grieved" implies deep sorrow or distress. Christians are not stoics; we feel pain
In your pain God has a Purpose (Good) – Plan (Refinement) – Promise (It will End)

Takeaway – Let Eternal Joy Outweigh Temporary Grief If you're going through trials:

Grieve, but don't despair - Dig for joy at source - Let God work his purpose through the trial

2. Faith is Refined by Fire (7)

⁷so 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.

Trials test our faith – Tony Merida = Had to take emergency care of grandchildren & Cancer

- **Made him: More compassionate pastor – Patient husband – Trusting follower**
Trials aren't meant to "break" the believer, but rather to "prove" the quality of their faith
more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire

- Peter uses a metallurgical metaphor to describe the human character and faith

- In the ancient world, gold was the ultimate standard of value – **Test it by fire**

This process would liquify the metal...making it pliable...scrape off the impurities

When in furnace...God's refining your character...impurities are burned away | 3 Reasons

- a. **Maturity** – Most common in James = testing of faith produces perseverance

Perseverance is the steadfast endurance, faithfulness, and continued pursuit of God despite trials, temptations, hardships, or spiritual weariness

- The goal is to move from a "fair-weather" faith to one that is resilient – **Athlete muscle**

- b. **Dependency** - Trials often strip away "idols" people rely on (money, status, health)
Tim Keller - 'It is only when you reach the very bottom, when everything falls apart, when all your schemes and resources are broken and exhausted, that you are finally open to learning how to completely depend on God'

Trials can strip away sinful things you love that you may be more assured in who you should love

- c. **Verification** – Trials are a litmus test – An indicator of a persons beliefs

- When life is easy it is simple to say 'I have faith' – **Ever try that on the worst day of life?**

When a Christian continues to follow their beliefs despite suffering, it demonstrates that their faith is anchored in conviction rather than just comfortable circumstances (End v7) may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ

- Future validation – One day refined faith will be laid at feet Jesus – Rewarded | 3 Things

- **Praise:** Commendation from God for faithful endurance (Well done good and faithful)

- **Glory:** The splendor of sharing in Christ's own resurrected glory (Shared Inheritance)

- **Honor:** Recognition and status of being God's children, vindicated before the world
at the revelation of Jesus Christ - This refers to the Second Coming of Jesus

Moment He is unveiled to the entire world not as a humble servant, but as the King of Kings

Takeaway - Trust the "furnace" of your trials

Don't consider trials as wasted – Goldsmith taking the ore and throwing it out...refining it

- Your faith is so precious, don't throw it away when trials come
- As God fashions you into the Christ-reflecting person he's making you to be, trust him

Three questions to ask as you pass through trials:

What is God showing me about himself? - What is God showing me about myself?

What is God stripping away that distracts my focus from his glory and his purposes for my life?

3. Faith Renews through Jesus (8)

⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,

- We live in a world governed by the philosophy of "seeing is believing."
 - We trust: What eyes can behold - hands can touch - scientific instruments can measure
- The Christian life is fundamentally a call to live by a different standard
Trusting and loving a Savior we cannot physically see

Peter outlines three stages of believer's relationship with Jesus in the midst of suffering:

a. **Affection for the Unseen:** "Though you have not seen him, you love him."

- Peter eyewitness; he walked, talked, ate w/ Jesus – People never had that privilege
Our love for Jesus is not based on physical interaction, but Scriptural understanding
- It is based on the testimony of the Gospel and the inner work of the Holy Spirit Bible

b. **Conviction of the Unseen:** "Though you do not now see him, you believe in him."

- This is active, ongoing trust - Not merely intellectual assent to facts about Jesus Satan
It must be conviction in your heart not to waver on your feelings for Jesus in hardship

c. **Exultation in the Unseen:** "and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible filled with glory"

- This is not shallow happiness. This is not circumstantial cheerfulness | Inexpressible
Have you ever been staring into eyes of someone when they first get Jesus – Inexpressible

Bible paints a picture Jesus...through Word we must love him...never seen him – **ARCHER**

Takeaway - Cultivate a love for Jesus

- When you first came to Christ, people say sometimes that he captured your heart
- Accurate...but we can't think of it as a crush that we can fall into and out of | **JR HIGH**
If you want love to last, you have to cultivate it: to choose it over and over again
Cultivate Love - Over sin when we're tempted, over despair when we're in trial

4. Faith Restores our Souls (9)

obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

How great is instant gratification...I hate delayed gratification...Chinese buffet

- Worth waiting for - Peter shifts their gaze from the **present pain** to the **future prize**
He anchors their present circumstances in certain reality of their final destination

Obtaining = Heaven is receiving what has already been promised | Amazon Package Delivered

The Outcome of Your Faith = Outcome can mean 'goal' – Your faith has a goal...finishing

Faith is not the finish line — it is the pathway to the finish line

Faith clings to Christ - Real faith always arrives somewhere...Christian = heaven w/ Christ

The Salvation of Your Souls – Christianity is more than just heaven when we die

Context of Peter's letter, salvation encompasses total deliverance from the power of sin, the trials of this life, and ultimate glorification

Retirement Centers and Old Saints – 'I'm almost done here and Jesus awaits'

Takeaway – Focus on the final prize

- **Shift your perspective from the Temporal to the Eternal**
 - Setting our minds above – Fixing our Eyes on the Unseen – Citizenship is Heaven

Are you living proof of the goodness of the Gospel?

Big Idea - God Uses Our Struggles to Prove the Authenticity of Our Faith