

Unshakeable: Weighed Down by the World September 17, 2023

3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, 4 and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. 5 And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

6 So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. 7 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.

8 You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. 9 The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

10 This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you. 11 They wondered what time or situation the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when he told them in advance about Christ's suffering and his great glory afterward.

12 They were told that their messages were not for themselves, but for you. And now this Good News has been announced to you by those who preached in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen.

— 1 Peter 1:3-12

Discussion/Journal Questions

In this passage, Peter talks about trials that test and purify us like fire tests and purifies gold. What is a trial you have been through that tested and refined your faith? Share as much as you are comfortable with.

In the sermon, John shared a story about three men each with two backpacks, one on the front, and the other on the back:

The first man carried the good things others have done on his back and all the bad things that have happened to him on his front.

The second man carried all the good things he had done on the front and all his mistakes on his back.

The third man carried all his blessings on his front, but he cut a hole in the bag on his back where he puts all his negative thoughts and bad experiences so they slip away and he does not keep carrying them.

Of the three men, which one are you most like?

Read 1 Peter 1:3-12. Take note of all the times Peter mentions joy or words like it. What specific blessings does Peter mention that bring us joy?

In verse 4, Peter mentions a priceless inheritance kept in heaven for us. When you envision heaven, what do you see? What do you hope and long to see or experience in heaven?

How does remembering our inheritance in eternity affect our lives here and now?

In the middle of trials, what are some practical things we can do to so that our faith remains strong?

How can your group pray for you this week? How can you encourage and pray for them?

Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?

Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?

Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?