



IN VARIOUS TRIALS

Week 3

Opening prayer

Prayer for the persecuted church:

Prayer for a local church:

This morning we pray for our brother Kasey Crawford and Elevation Church.

Closing prayer

Introduction:

With all the assurances he was giving them, last week we were given the distinct impression that Peter was preparing those he was writing to for something. And he was —

we find this week that he is assuring them that they can endure the trials in which they find themselves. And he assures us that we can endure the trials we are facing. What are the assurances he gives us that we can face our trials?

Listen to what Peter says about Christians now:

1 Peter 1:5

—953—

5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith

What is the means God is guarding us by? Our faith. What does our faith guard us for?

for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

So, the first assurance that Peter gives you that you can face your trials is that...

1. You are being guarded by God's power.

Now that's only comforting if it's true. You'd be hard pressed to find a better story than the gospel. There's a reason that's it's been called the greatest story ever told. But a mere story doesn't transform a person or truly guard him. The reason the gospel story is so powerful is because it's about an actual Person, the Lord Jesus Christ. It's a true story. I challenge any open and honest person here to engage the Jesus of the gospels. Read about His life. Engage with His thoughts. Speak to Him. He's alive. The gospel is the greatest story ever

told because it's a story that comes to life. You hear about this Jesus and then you meet this Jesus because He's alive.

6 In this you rejoice,

In this gospel that God is guarding you with you rejoice. Christ has died for you. You've been justified. You've been glorified. "It's already complete in the eyes of God." (MLJ) There's a place prepared for you.

1 Peter 1:6

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

2. The second thing that gives you assurance that you can face your trial is that your trial is only temporary. Your salvation is eternal.

Peter returns to this idea later in his letter when he writes:

1 Peter 5:10

¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

This is what Peter is telling us to rejoice in while we endure various trials — you have been called to eternal glory in Christ. Don't lose sight of the future. "Christians lives in a future that is already present." (Edmund Clowney)

This is the same view the Apostle Paul has of trials.

Romans 8:18

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.

Whatever trial you endure is only temporary. Trials tend to fill our thoughts and block out our view of eternity. You have not just been called to eternal glory. You've been justified

for eternal glory. You've been glorified. It's a done deal the way God sees it.

1 Peter 1:6

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

Because we're guarded by the power of God, because Christ is always with us, because we have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in us, we can rejoice that we're on our way to heaven

by the grace of God alone. Even if we're enduring various trials for a little while.

Now, Peter doesn't restrict these trials to any particular kind of trial. The phrase "various trials" includes anything in your life right now or in the future that is a trial.

- Lack of funds (financial crisis)
- Verbal or physical persecution because of the gospel
- Emotional pain (loss of loved one, relationship issues, etc.)

- Spiritual attacks
- A time of severe temptation
- Sickness (loneliness)

Then Peter explains the reason for these various trials in our lives.

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.

3. Your trials will bring glory to God.

That is a far cry from the false teaching of the Prosperity Gospel that claims God is glorified by your excessive success and riches. Peter teaches just the opposite — that God is glorified when a Christian trusts Him through the most difficult period of her life. Trials come for testing and the testing proves your faith is true.

And that's for our sake, because we all have times in our lives when we ask ourselves, “Am

I truly a Christian? Do I have Christian character? Is my faith genuine?"

Trials also temper us, burning away attitudes and mindsets God wants us to be rid of.

"The extracts of this world are removed from us, and we are made fit for Heaven. A simple bar of iron ore, pulled from the earth, might be worth \$5.00. However, that same bar, when made into horseshoes, would be worth \$10.50. If the owner decided to make the bar into needles for sewing, it could be worth as

much as \$3,285. And if he turned it into springs for watches, its value could jump as high as \$250,000. What made the difference? Simply the amount of heat by which the iron bar was tempered and honed.” (David Helm)

Our faith is more precious to God than a bar of iron. It's even more precious than gold!

Trials temper us, burning away attitudes and mindsets God wants us to be rid of.

- What I learned during my sickness...

Malcolm Muggeridge (English journalist): “I can say with complete truthfulness that everything I have ever learned in my seventy-five years in this world, everything that has truly enhanced and enlightened my existence, has been through affliction and not through happiness, whether pursued or attained.”

Why is God glorified when you trust Him through a painful ordeal? Because He shows up. He proves Himself faithful. He is there, near the brokenhearted and crushed in spirit.

He is not a God far way. He is a God who is near. God will use various means in your life to lift you up and sustain you and keep you going and demonstrate the reality of His faithfulness (even if you only notice it after the fact).

4. Trials keep us trusting.

⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him.

Why? Because you have experienced the invisible Christ through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. He's proven Himself to you.

Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,

It's a glory about the future. Remember: "Christians lives in a future that is already present." (Edmund Clowney)

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

The gospel is always the key. During my sickness I felt far away from God, but because of my faith in the gospel I had faith God loved me just the same.