

2/19/2023

## THIS IS THE WAY: “ENCOURAGEMENT FOR DISCOURAGED BELIEVERS”

*From: Peter, Jesus Christ's missionary.*

*To: The Jewish Christians driven out of Jerusalem and scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia Minor, and Bithynia.*

*Dear friends, God the Father chose you long ago and knew you would become His children. And the Holy Spirit has been at work in your hearts, cleansing you with the blood of Jesus Christ and making you to please Him. May God bless you richly and grant you increasing freedom from all anxiety and fear.*

*All honor to God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for it is His boundless mercy that has given us the privilege of being born again so that we are now members of God's own family. Now we live in the hope of eternal life because Christ rose again from the dead. And God has reserved for His children the priceless gift of eternal life; it is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And God, in His mighty power, will make sure that you get there safely to receive it because you are trusting Him. It will be yours in that coming last day for all to see. So be truly glad! There is wonderful joy ahead, even though the going is rough for a while down here.*

*These trials are only to test your faith, to see whether or not it is strong and pure. It is being tested as fire tests gold and purifies it—and your faith is far more precious to God than mere gold; so if your faith remains strong after being tried in the test tube of fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day of His return. 1 Peter 1:1 – 7 (LB)*

### 1. God **CHOOSES YOU** to be part of His family!

*“Dear friends, God the Father chose you long ago and knew you would become His children.” 1 Peter 1:2a(LB)*

*“... for it is His boundless mercy that has given us the privilege of being born again so that we are now members of God's own family”. 1 Peter 1:3a (LB)*

### 2. God **PROMISES YOU** eternal life!

*“God has reserved for His children the priceless gift of eternal life” 1 Peter 1:4a (LB)*

*“God, in His mighty power, will make sure that you get there safely to receive it because you are trusting Him.”*

*1 Peter 1:5a (LB)*

**3. God USES life's difficulties to grow your faith!**

*"... trials are only to test your faith, to see whether or not it is strong and pure." 1 Peter 1:7a (LB)*

*"... if your faith remains strong after being tried in the test tube of fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor..." 1 Peter 1:7c (LB)*

**Keep the Conversation going...**

1. Describe a time in your life when you felt discouraged in your faith.
2. What difficulties have you experienced that helped grow your faith? (Romans 5:1-5 and 2 Corinthians 1:3-5)
3. How can you encourage someone else in their faith this week?