

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Becoming Resilient Exiles

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
September 18, 2022



1 Peter 1:6-7 (NLT) 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 honour 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.

- **Trials are a part of life, but they are temporary.**

“Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NLT) “That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. ¹⁷ For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! ¹⁸ So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.”

- **Trials test and refine our faith.**

v. 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.”

- **Genuine faith is a witness to the world.**

v. 7b “So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honour on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.”

v. 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.”

Big Idea: Use your trials to refine your faith, not sideline your faith.

How do we use our trials to grow in faithful resiliency?

1 Peter 1:13-15 (NLT) “So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. ¹⁴ So you must live as God’s obedient children. Don’t slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn’t know any better then. ¹⁵ But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.”

- **Prepare for action & exercise self-control.**

v. 13 (AMP) “So prepare your minds for action, be completely sober [in spirit—steadfast, self-disciplined, spiritually and morally alert]”

- **Put your hope in God's grace.**

v. 13b (AMP) “Fix your hope completely on the grace [of God] that is coming to you when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

- **Pursue holiness as you walk in faith & obedience.**

v. 14 “So you must live as God’s obedient children. Don’t slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn’t know any better then. ¹⁵ But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy.”

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Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
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To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Becoming Resilient Exiles

#1 of 6 - September 18, 2022

- 1) Last week we finished off our Dangerous Prayers sermon series by looking at Paul's Prayer for Spiritual Growth in Ephesians 1:15-23. In what ways has God been challenging you to prioritize spiritual growth? What have you been applying from this message?
- 2) Take time to have one person explain and then practice the 3 Circles Gospel Presentation or share their testimony.
- 3) Read 1 Peter 1:1-15. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer / speaker and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 4) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about this passage? How is our situation similar or different to Peter's audience?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What does it mean to live in exile? What does this reveal about trials and our faith?
- 6) Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. How does God use our trials for His good purposes? How does this encourage you as you reflect on your current trials?
- 7) Read Daniel 3. How does it help to know that Jesus is in the "fire" with us when we face trials? How does the cross of Christ reveal this?
- 8) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through these verses and through this message? In what way is God asking you to grow in resiliency? Reflect on the 3 action steps that Peter gives us in v.13-15 to grow our faithful resiliency and commit to a specific step for each one.
 - **Prepare for action & exercise self-control.**
 - **Put your hope in God's grace.**
 - **Pursue holiness as you walk in faith & obedience.**
- 9) How do these verses call on you to change the way you live? What step will you take today? What principles do you need to pass on to others this week?



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