

Upside-Down Joy

Tangled knot of suffering

Sacred Core: pleasures + shallow joy.

→ 'I really hate...' - HATED TODAY

INHERITANCE

1 Peter 1:3-5 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! 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, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Is this true? ⊕
Is this experienced? ⊗
Opposite...

- ① In mercy, God came to us.
- ② LIVING + ACTIVE HOPE
- ③ INHERITANCE (INVISIBLE)
- ④ GUARDED, GOD'S POWER, THROUGH FAITH

Deuteronomy 19:8-10 - And if the Lord your God enlarges your territory, as he has sworn to your fathers, and gives you all the land that he promised to give to your fathers— provided you are careful to keep all this commandment, which I command you today, by loving the Lord your God and by walking ever in his ways— then you shall add three other cities to these three, lest innocent blood be shed in your land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance, and so the guilt of bloodshed be upon you.

Inheritance lost + tarnished by sin is now securely kept by God in Heaven.

Peter here is using the biggest & widest language he can to awaken true, real, living hope.

You and I need to see this - not just for pleasures, OUR PLEASURES

TRIAL (HERE'S THE CHURN!)

1 Peter 1:6-7 - In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 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.

Various trials

1:6 Why were Christians the target of persecution? (1) They refused to worship the emperor as a god and thus were viewed as atheists and traitors. (2) They refused to worship at pagan temples, so business for these moneymaking enterprises dropped wherever Christianity took hold. (3) They didn't support the Roman ideals of self, power, and conquest; and the Romans scorned the Christian ideal of self-sacrificing service. (4) They exposed and rejected the horrible immorality of pagan culture.

- ① TRIALS ARE VARIOUS
- ② TRIALS BRING GRIEF
- ③ TRIALS ARE AN OPPORTUNITY.

MATTHEW 3+4
IDENTITY → RESOURCES

In order for reporting in trials to be true, and not fake, we need to be fully engaged and satisfied in our identity + inheritance

IN ALL TRIALS, OPPORTUNITY FOR REFINEMENT.

BUT IN ORDER FOR THAT, WE MUST ① EMBRACE WHO WE ARE ② FOLLOW OUR CROSS

WALK

1 Peter 1:8-9 - Though 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, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

WHAT DO WE DO?
EITHER BIBLE IS TRUE OR ITS NOT,
AND WE NEED TO BE A PEOPLE WHO STRIVE NOT TO EARN INHERITANCE BUT TO GET IT INTO HEART (LATER XUS!) weak muscles

TRUST John 20:24-29 - Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

ACTION Matthew 7:24-27 - "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

Faith saves, not evidence
Salvation = hope, true reward

BUILD LIFE ON INHERITANCE
YES OBEDIENCE, BUT CALLING
IF WE DON'T HEED, WE WON'T STAND.

WE NEED TO BE REASSURED BY PROMISE