

## Study God's Word – 1 Peter 1:3-5 (Part 2)

Meaning to Application

GCT Spring 2026

### 1. What did the text mean to the biblical audience?

#### Structure diagram 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,

<sup>4</sup> to an **inheritance** that is

**imperishable,**

**undefiled,**

and **unfading,**

**kept** in heaven for you,

<sup>5</sup> who by God's power

are being guarded through faith

for a salvation **ready** to be **revealed**

in the last time.

<sup>6</sup> In this you **rejoice**,

though now for a little while,

**if necessary,**

you have been **grieved** by **various trials**,

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> 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,  
<sup>9</sup> obtaining the **outcome** of your faith,  
the salvation of your souls.

### **Truths From Cross References**

#### **Various trials (examination):**

James 1:2-4

1 Peter 4:12

#### **Tested genuineness:**

James 1:2-4

#### **Though it is tested by fire:**

Job 23:8-12

Psalms 66:8-12

Proverbs 17:3

Isaiah 48:9-11

1 Corinthians 3:12-15

### **Questions to use when preparing a Bible Study to uncover a passage's main theological point.**

#### **1. God-focused questions:**

- What does this verse show about who God is (His character, attributes, names, actions)?
- What does it show about what God loves, hates, desires, commands, or promises?
- How does this verse fit with God's overall purpose in the Bible's big story (creation, fall, redemption, new creation)?

## **2. Gospel / Christ questions:**

- How does this verse connect to the person and work of Christ (who He is, what He did, what He is doing)?
- What problem of sin, brokenness, or spiritual need does this verse highlight, that the gospel answers?
- Does this verse point forward to Christ, flow out of Christ's work, or describe life in Christ?

## **3. Human-condition questions:**

- What does this verse teach about people: our nature, identity, temptations, or tendencies?
- What "fallen condition" or heart issue (belief, desire, fear, idol) is exposed here?
- How does this verse show who I am "in Adam" (apart from God) or "in Christ" (redeemed)?

## **4. Redemptive-story / context questions:**

- Where are we in the Bible's storyline (before the law, under the law, in the church, new creation)?
- How does the surrounding context (paragraph, chapter, book) clarify the main point of this verse?
- If this verse were missing from the Bible, what key truth would be lost?

## **5. Main-point questions:**

Use these to force yourself to summarize the core theology in one sentence.

- If I had to state the author's main point in one sentence, what would it be?
- Which words, images, or repeated ideas carry the most weight in this verse?
- Is the verse mainly describing something (narrative) or prescribing something (command)? What truth about God and His ways does that reveal?

A helpful test: "This verse mainly teaches that God is \_\_\_\_\_ and therefore His people must / can \_\_\_\_\_."

## **6. Response / implication / application questions:**

These don't change the meaning, but they help you see why the theological point matters.

- If this verse is true, what should I think differently about God, myself, or the world?
- What should I now believe, desire, or hope for because of this truth?
- What concrete obedience, repentance, or comfort flows from this verse's main truth?
- Is there a command to obey in this passage?
- Is there an example to follow or avoid in this passage?
- Is there a reality to affirm in this passage?
- If so, how should that reality impact my life? (desires, thoughts, beliefs, actions)
- How can I praise Him through this scripture?
- How can I confess my sins on the basis of this scripture?
- If this is really true, what harmful emotions, what wrong behavior or false attitudes result in me when I forget this?
- What should I be aspiring to on the basis of this text?
- Why is God telling me this today?
- How could my life be different if I were absolutely sure of every one of God's promises that He gave me in this scripture?
- What are some of the challenges or roadblocks that make applying/obeying difficult? (sinful desires, temptations, struggles, wrong ideas, the culture we live in, etc.)
- What would it specifically look like if I lived this out?