practicing the way

be with Jesus
become like him
do as he did

Suffering

1 Peter 1:1-9 NRSV

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,
To the exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia,
Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who have been chosen and
destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be
obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood:
May grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By
his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living
hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and
unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected
by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be
revealed in the last time.

- 1 Peter 1:1-9

6 In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

- 1 Peter 1:1-9

practicing the way

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Suffering

Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

- Luke 9:23 NIV

It seems that the Early Church recognized that our suffering has the most potential to forge our souls into the shape of Jesus.

“This is God’s purpose: to set people aside from other uses so that they can be signposts to this new reality, this new world. The new world has in fact already come into being through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah.”

- N.T. Wright

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- 1 Peter 1:3-5

In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

- 1 Peter 1:6-9

"...blessed are those who have not seen
and yet have come to believe."

- John 20:29b