

1 Peter 1:6-9

6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

The Purpose and Value of Trials for Believers

Rejoicing in God's Keeping Power During Trials

In these circumstances, we as believers find great joy, especially in recognizing God's power to keep them secure even when they experience grief from various trials. Though faith may be tested as if by fire, there is confidence that God will preserve those who trust in Him.

The Necessity of Grief in Trials

Many believe or some would have us believe it's sometimes assumed that a strong Christian should never be grieved during a trial, as if nothing could affect them. Peter teaches that there is a necessary purpose not only for the diverse trials believers face, but also for the grief they experience within those trials. God's design includes both the trial itself and the emotional weight that comes with it, using both for a greater purpose in the believer's life.

The Many-Colored Nature of Trials

The phrase "various trials" literally means "many-colored," a term used to describe things like the skin of a leopard, the intricate veins in marble, or the patterns of an embroidered

robe. This highlights the diverse and complex nature of the difficulties believers may encounter.

The Testing of Faith

Faith is tested not because God is unaware of its quality or strength, but because we as believers often do not realize the true measure of our faith. God's purpose in testing is to reveal the enduring quality and authenticity of faith.

It is the honor of faith to be tried. If someone claims to have faith but has never had to rely on it in difficult circumstances, the reality and strength of that faith remain untested. True faith brings glory to God and reward to the believer only when it is exercised and proven in challenging situations.

The Value of Faith Compared to Gold

Gold is tested and purified by fire, but faith is far more valuable and precious. If gold is considered worth refining, how much more is faith worth being tested and proven? God has a significant and meaningful purpose in allowing faith to be tested.

- **Testing demonstrates that faith is genuine and sincere.**
- **Testing reveals the strength of one's faith.**
- **Testing serves to purify faith, removing impurities just as fire refines gold.**

While gold is one of the most durable materials known, it will eventually perish. In contrast, faith endures beyond this world and will not perish.

The Goal of Faith and the Reality of Jesus

The ultimate goal of faith is to be realized at the return of Jesus Christ, resulting in the salvation of believers' souls. As long as believers await this final fulfillment, they must endure trials and persevere with faith and joy, even though they do not see God with their physical eyes.

Peter acknowledges that, while he had seen Jesus personally, most early Christians had not, yet they still loved Him deeply. The reality and presence of Jesus are not diminished by the fact that He is unseen by present-day believers; He remains just as real to them as to those who saw Him in the flesh.

There is equality between believers today and those who lived during Jesus' incarnation, for Christ remains the same yesterday, today, and forever for all who trust in Him.

The phrase “joy unspeakable” is unique in the New Testament and describes a joy so profound that words cannot capture it.

What is Joy?

This does not mean happiness. Joy is peace This joy is not ordinary or earthly, but a deep, spiritual joy that fills the hearts of those who believe, even in the midst of trials.

1 Peter 1:10-12

10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

The Prophets’ Role in Salvation

Inquiry and Testimony of the Prophets

The salvation believers experience today was a subject of deep interest and careful investigation for the prophets. Peter, along with other New Testament writers, emphasized that their message was not a new invention. Instead, it was firmly rooted in the prophecies and testimonies of those who came before. This connection to the prophets served to elevate the sense of greatness surrounding salvation for Peter’s readers, especially those enduring affliction.

Peter’s intent was not to prove his teachings about salvation by showing their alignment with the prophets. Rather, he sought to encourage and comfort his afflicted audience by highlighting the significance and vastness of the salvation for which they were suffering.

The Grace Foretold by the Prophets

Ministry Across Generations

It was revealed to the prophets that their ministry extended beyond their own era. They served both their contemporaries and future generations. The truths they foretold were later reported as facts by the apostles, who preached the gospel through the Holy Spirit.

Since believers now know both the fulfillment in Jesus and the timing of these prophecies, the Old Testament revelations should be even more meaningful to us than they were to the prophets themselves. Does this excite you? Does this fact encourage you how real the scriptures are?

The Interest of Angels

The unfolding of God's eternal plan is so remarkable that even angels long to witness and understand it. Angels observe the behavior of Christians, making it important for believers to live in a manner worthy of their calling.

A part of God's eternal purpose is to reveal His wisdom to angelic beings through His work with the church. Angels are depicted as intensely interested, eagerly seeking to comprehend the mystery of human salvation.

This ongoing angelic desire is described as a strong, persistent yearning to understand more about salvation. The term used does not suggest that their desire is unfulfilled or forbidden, but rather that it is a continual effort to grasp the depths of God's redemptive work.

Angels possess a holy curiosity and rejoice in the increasing realization of Christ's kingdom as it manifests in the lives of believers throughout history. Other biblical passages also picture the supernatural realm as eagerly observing God's redemptive plan, and Jesus' words confirm that angels rejoice over each person who repents.

1 Peter 1: 13 – 17

13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

Living According to God's Call

Girding Up the Loins of Your Mind

“Wherefore” = “For which cause, On the account of” To live in the manner God desires, believers are called to “gird up the loins of your mind.” This expression conveys the need to prepare for action, echoing the idea of “rolling up your sleeves” in readiness for what lies ahead. Preparation is not merely physical but mental, requiring a focused and disciplined approach to life.

Girding up the loins of your mind involves eliminating loose and careless thinking. It means bringing the rational and reflective capacities of the mind under control, intentionally deciding what to think about and setting your mind on purposeful things.

Being Sober

Alongside mental preparation, believers are urged to be sober. **Sobriety means taking a serious, thoughtful look at life.** It represents a condition free from all forms of mental and spiritual loss of self-control. This attitude reflects self-discipline, avoiding extremes and maintaining balance in thoughts and actions.

Resting Your Hope Fully on Grace

Peter encourages Christians to place their hope entirely on the grace that will be revealed when Jesus Christ returns. Throughout his letter, **Peter emphasizes God's grace:** he greeted believers with grace, spoke of the grace given through Jesus and foretold by the

prophets, and now highlights the future grace that will be bestowed at Christ's revelation. It is through this unmerited favor that believers can stand before Jesus.

God's grace is not limited to the past, when believers first committed their lives to Christ, nor only to the present, where they live each day grounded in grace. It also extends into the future, promising even greater riches yet to be revealed.

Grace is described as the unmerited love of God, reaching down to save and bless. It is the source of every bright and holy gift flowing from His infinite heart.

Living as Obedient Children

God's call to holiness requires believers to live as obedient children, breaking away from their former lifestyle characterized by lusts and ignorance. Conformity to the world is replaced by obedience to God, marking a distinct change in conduct and desires.

Being Holy in All Your Conduct

Peter instructs believers to be holy in all their conduct, just as the One who called them is holy. Holiness, at its core, is not simply moral purity; **it is the concept of "apartness."** God is distinct from His creation, different in essence and perfect in His attributes. Rather than isolating Himself in this apartness, God invites believers to share in it, commanding, "Be holy, for I am holy."

If we fail to recognize God's apartness, we risk viewing Him as merely a super-human figure, missing the uniqueness of His love, justice, and other attributes. Holiness is less about possessing a quality than being possessed by it—it defines our relationship to God.

This understanding sets the God of the Bible apart from the pagan gods of New Testament times, whose examples were often abominable and impure. In contrast, God's holiness permeates all His attributes.

Calling on the Father with Reverence

When Christians call on the Father, they must remember that He is holy and impartial, judging each person according to their deeds. **This awareness makes a sober, holy walk all the more essential, underscoring the importance of living with reverence and diligence.**