

- Tenor of Peter's letter is found in these verses ... He writes of an eternal reality that's true regardless of all present circumstances (eternal outweighs temporal / spiritual outweighs physical) ... Further, this eternal reality – who we now are and what we now possess, all because of Jesus Christ, has been given so their life / our life becomes grounded in and realigned by these truths – **the true grace of God**, which we are to **stand firm in** ...
- This reality is the basis for our rejoicing – our joy ... Peter isn't referring to a future joy, where all hardship and pain and suffering ceases to exist – though that time is coming ... Nor is he referring to a joy that is forced or fake ... He writes of a present, continuous joy that we can experience even as we live in a world that stands in stark contrast to God and His unchanging Word ... Because the world stands in opposition to Him, so the world will always stand in opposition to us – His chosen and redeemed people ...
 - Always experience tension of living in a world that we no longer belong to ... We've been born-again from above, meaning we should no longer tether ourselves to what this world runs after, what this world holds up as being the standard ... We should no longer define ourselves by the definitions and stereotypes that the world has created and tries to squeeze us into ... Being a follower of Jesus means we no longer turn to the remedies this world offers when suffering and hardship and pain intersect with our life ... Instead, we see these situations for what they are, and we choose to respond to them with the means that God provides
 - Joy is not governed by present circumstances ... Joy doesn't equate with happiness ... Joy is settled deep within, an abiding assurance and confidence grounded in Jesus Christ and enabled by the Spirit ([Jo15:11](#)) ... When the Dr gives an unfavorable report, joy is still possible because of Christ ... When finances are tough, when unwanted temptations plague your mind, when it's a struggle to get out of bed, when the pressures of life overwhelm, joy in Christ is a present reality that God gives to help us walk through whatever is ahead
- **The path of suffering leads to the promise of glory** – a theme Peter begins and weaves thru ... [4:19, 5:10](#) ... Entrust yourself to a faithful Creator – all-powerful, self-existent, self-sustaining, unchanging God ... Who will Himself be the One who restores us according to the complete salvation that Christ has purchased for us, that's being kept for us, and will be fully revealed in us at the coming of Christ ... This is the path of glory suffering leads to ... This is the joy settled deep within us ... Which helps us endure what's needed – what's **"necessary"**, Peter says
 - *Rejoice in this assurance from God, even as for the moment you endure various trials, which are needed so that the genuineness of your faith is brought out and formed, resulting in Christ receiving the worship and glory He deserves from us when He appears* ... As fire is used to remove various impurities from gold and to form it into what's desired, so trials and sufferings are used to remove impurities from our faith and to form it into what God desires ...
 - Our suffering is fashioned after the suffering of Jesus ... We suffer as He suffered – with Him, in Him, for Him ... [Heb2:18](#) (4:15, 5:7-9) ... **Testing** relates to **refine** and **proven** – *bring out, recognize, shown for what it is* ... Jesus is shown to be faithful as He suffered, allowing Him to now empathize with our weaknesses and trials and sufferings, so to provide all we need to make it through ... This is what Peter calls **"sharing in the sufferings of Christ"** (4:13) ... As we share in His suffering, so we share in the glory He brings us into – united with Him in suffering, death, resurrection, and glory
 - The compassion of Jesus is Him coming alongside us in our sufferings and trials and pain and hardship ... We do not face these things apart from Him ... Getting honest with Jesus, asking blunt and hard questions of Him – these do not indicate weak faith or lack of faith ... It's putting into practice the example of Jesus – in the garden and on the cross ... In those moments, His humanity greatly empathizes with our own ... *God where are You? Why is this happening? Please, Jesus, get us through this?* ...

- Jesus not only comes alongside us in compassion and empathy, but also in intercession, a way in which He guards and keeps us ... **Lu22:31-32** – Jesus tells Peter that Satan has asked permission to attack him, and permission is granted ... Yet, Jesus tells Peter, *“I have prayed (begged/interceded) for you, that you would not fully abandon what you believe and know to be true. And you won’t! When you come back, strengthen the other disciples.”* ... Jesus stands with Peter in battle and before the Father representing Peter (**Heb7:25**) ... His intercession helps guard us down here and keeps up there what belongs to us ... We continue in faith
- We presently confess to believe in and follow and trust and worship a Savior, and a God, we have never seen face to face ... However, our faith is not grounded in what we can see and touch ... But is grounded in the One who has proven Himself faithful and good and merciful, who has promised us victory and eternal life, and who walks with us every step, through every situation ... He is the character of our faith and genuineness of our faith ... He is our hope and salvation ... He is our inheritance and joy ...

My paraphrase of 1:1-9 ...

Though you are displaced, you have not been forgotten. God has chosen you to be His very own children, according to His merciful love and the complete work of salvation brought about by the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ.

And so, we bless God with praise and thanksgiving and gratefulness!

Because His merciful love chose you, He caused you to be born-again by His own doing. Through the resurrection of Jesus, you have been given a living hope of resurrection and an inheritance of glory – a future beyond the grave, that will not be taken away or destroyed or corrupted by any type of evil or suffering. This inheritance is being kept for you by God Himself. He waits to give you what He has promised.

In the meantime, He is guarding you, by His own power through Christ, so that you make it to the end of the race. Continue to believe in Him and His ability to provide all that’s needed for you to make it through.

Rejoice in what He’s done and is doing for you because of Christ. Rejoice that He’s with you by the Holy Spirit, and that you belong to Jesus. The suffering you’re going through is needed – but it’s also temporary. One day soon it will all be no more. Each trial means to test, strengthen, and reveal the genuineness and beauty of your faith, which is of more value than gold. The Spirit uses your faithful endurance to form the image of Christ in you, and to encourage the faith of those you share life with. All of this results in the praise and glory to Christ, which is the goal.

Even though you haven’t seen Him or met Him, you continue to believe in Him, which causes your love for Him. Keep this going; don’t allow the trials of this world to overwhelm your faith in Christ and your love for Christ. He is ours because we are His. And so, again, rejoice in this. The goal of your faith is for your life to be in His – to belong to God and Him alone, to live with Him forever, and to worship the Father, the Savior, and Comforter, who is our God forevermore.

So, brothers and sisters in Christ, keep this before you as you go about living in a world not your home.