

## Our Living Hope – Part 3

1 Peter 1:3-12 - NCBC, March 11, 2018

Main Point: **God's great salvation compels troubled souls to praise Him.**

- **Joyfully praise God in your present trials** (6-9)
  - Because God reigns over your trials (6)
    - Your trials are passing
    - Your trials are purposeful
    - Your trials are personalized
  - Because God refines your faith through trials (7a)
    - Your trials prove genuine faith
    - Your trials purify genuine faith
  - Because God rewards your faith after trials (7b, 9)
    - Your trials produce a future glory
    - Your faith procures a future salvation
  - Because God's reality sustains you through trials (8)
    - Your faith perceives God's presence
    - Your faith partakes in God's glory

Application: **Praise God today for your secure future in Christ!**

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### Opening Announcements:

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Jane VanDenBerg Global Outreach Worker Report

<<O Lord My Rock and My Redeemer>>



Thank you for singing that prayer of faith and submission to our Rock and Redeemer Jesus Christ.

It is so good to gather together to worship our Savior through singing, prayers, giving, and submission to the preaching of God's Word.

I invite you to continue your worship now by opening your Bible to **First Peter chapter 1.**



If you don't have a Bible with you, simply raise your hand and we'd be delighted to give you one. You are welcome to take this Bible home as our gift to you, or just return it after our service by placing it on the table in the back of the room. I believe **1 Peter chapter 1** is on page 1203 in the giveaway Bibles today.

Next weekend we are looking forward to the teaching ministry of Dr. John Street as he comes to open God's Word and instruct our hearts on godly parenting in an ungodly age. If you haven't yet registered for this conference – please do so today using our website or app. Please pray this week for God's favor on us as we submit our hearts to His all-sufficient Word.



Now today we return to **1 Peter chapter 1**, as we come to *part 3* of our 4-part study of this single run-on sentence that starts in **verse 3** and ends in **verse 12**.

For those who are able, I'd invite you to stand in honor of the reading of God's Word as I read this verses from the **English Standard Translation**:

*<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, <sup>11</sup> inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. <sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.*

This is the word of God. You may be seated.

**Let's Pray.**

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This Wednesday evening I heard a heart-wrenching account of a local 6-year old child being put on hospice

care. A little boy ravaged by the effects of both disease and accident...now put on comfort measures as his faithful parents wait for him to die.

What biblical truths help you rightly process such grief?

Yesterday I heard from a godly man who has faced huge financial troubles, and the relational conflict that so often comes with the threat of bankruptcy and financial failure. He wrote how he's learning to cling to **Job 23:10** (which is printed on the front of today's worship folder), and trust God and boast in his own weaknesses when life is hard.

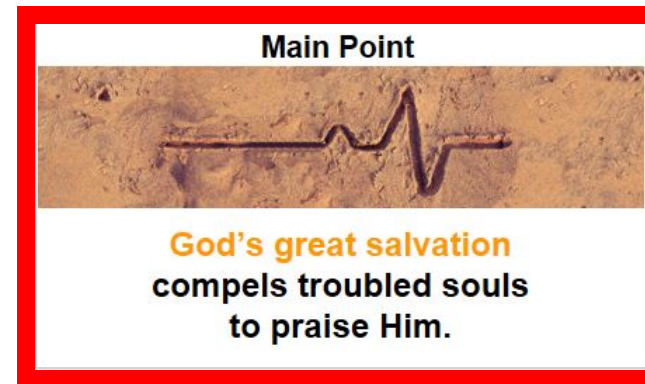
What biblical promises give you hope when all your earthly security is being ripped away from you?

How do you respond when your soul is deeply troubled?

Where do you turn for comfort or for counsel? What biblical truths serve as guardrails for your own thinking when you or your loved ones are suffering, or even being unjustly persecuted as was Peter's original audience in this letter?

Remember Peter is writing to involuntary exiles. A scattered and abused people who are suffering horrific fiery trials at the hands of wicked enemies.

And in the first 12 verses of this letter, Peter greets troubled souls with the sovereign work of God, firmly believing that,



God's great salvation compels troubled souls to praise Him.

Once you have received the saving grace of Jesus Christ and experienced the newness of life that God's Spirit brings to your soul... it changes everything about how you perceive trouble in this world.

Since your eternal home is secure in the sovereign grace of our unchanging God,<sup>1</sup> your troubled soul still has reason to praise God today.

Since you've been set free from the law of sin and death,<sup>2</sup> you know that it is God's grace which is even now at work in and through your suffering, to make you perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.<sup>3</sup>

God's great salvation supernaturally motivates a soul to do what is humanly impossible – to praise God and

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Peter 1:4-5; Ephesians 1:13-14

<sup>2</sup> Romans 8:1

<sup>3</sup> James 1:2-4, 12

rejoice even from the desperate and heart-wrenching posture of profound agony and hurt.

**Verse 6** says it this way,

*In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials...*

And the question we ask **verse 6**, is “What’s the this?” What’s the motivation for rejoicing in **verse 6**? What empowers a soul grieved by various trials to respond so meekly to God’s megaphone of pain<sup>4</sup> and not waste their suffering?

Church – the “this” or “wherein” of **verse 6** refers back to the whole hope of our salvation laid out in **verses 3-5**. God’s great salvation compels troubled souls to praise Him.

Let’s quickly review. In **verse 3**, Peter calls us to

**Praise God for His past adoption** (1:3)

- God **fathers** our salvation
- Causing us to be **born again**
- Because of His great **mercy**
- Through the **resurrection** of Jesus
- Resulting in our living **hope!**

**True Grace Firm Hope**

REVIEW

**Praise God for His past adoption.** God Himself has fathered our salvation causing us to be born again because of His great mercy through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, which results in our living and confident hope of a glorious future in Christ.

In **verses 4-5** Peter calls us to,

**Praise God for His future provision** (1:4-5)

- Our living hope in our secure **inheritance**
- Our living hope in God's **power**
- Our living hope in our final **salvation**

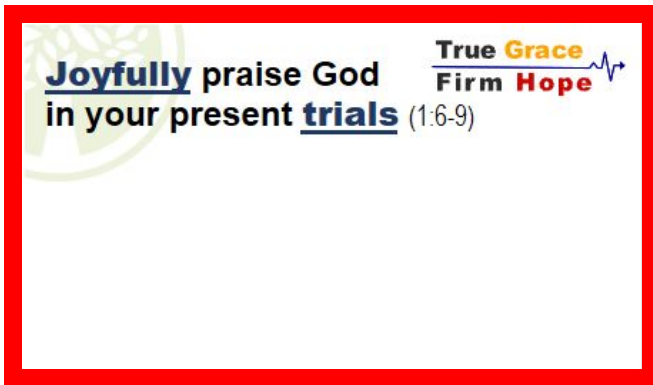
**True Grace Firm Hope**

REVIEW

**Praise God for His future provision.** His saving grace gives the elect a living hope, which is an inheritance that is kept secure for us by God’s power for an ultimate deliverance or salvation at the appearing of Christ!

Now today, we come to **verses 6-9** where Peter implores his readers to,

<sup>4</sup> C.S. Lewis’ phrase  
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Joyfully praise God in your present trials (6-9)

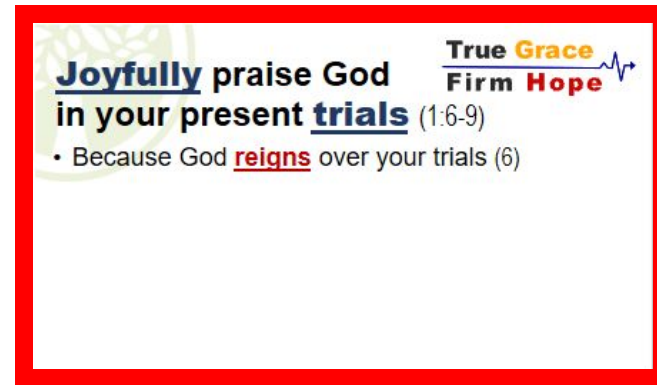
Christians waste their suffering when they fail to rejoice in God’s salvation throughout the trial. In fact, the joy of the Lord is to be the strength of troubled souls as they are compelled to praise God.<sup>5</sup>

Now as you listen you might ask, Why should I joyfully praise God right now while I’m in the middle of such a difficult trial in my life?

Look carefully at **verse 6**. You should joyfully praise God in your present trials,

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<sup>5</sup> Nehemiah 8:10  
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Because God reigns over your trials (6)

God controls your trials. Don’t be confused troubled soul. Satan doesn’t reign over your trials. Sometimes I think Christians give Satan too much credit. Remember Satan couldn’t oppress Job without God’s permission in **Job 1-2**.<sup>6</sup> Satan couldn’t sift Peter like wheat without the Lord’s prayerful oversight and security in **Luke 22**.<sup>7</sup>

God reigns over your present difficulty.

No human enemy ultimately controls your trial as well. Remember Joseph’s words in **Genesis 50:20**, what the brothers meant for evil, God intended for good.<sup>8</sup> God is powerful enough to use bad guys to save His people.<sup>9</sup>

This is good news. No matter what you’re living through God reigns over it. In a mysterious way that preserves God’s holiness and never makes God Himself

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<sup>6</sup> Job 1:12; 2:6-10

<sup>7</sup> Luke 22:31-32

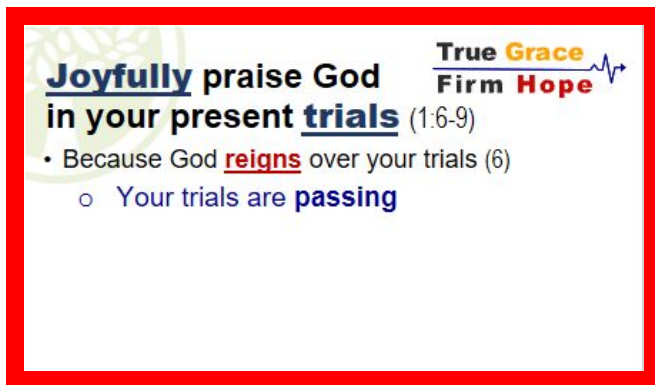
<sup>8</sup> C.f. Acts 2:23; Romans 8:28-29

<sup>9</sup> 2 Kings 14:26-27; Romans 9:17

responsible for man's sin<sup>10</sup> – and yet requires that all of your hardship comes through Him before it gets to you – God reigns over your trials!

We first see God's reign over our trials in **verse 6** with the phrase, *though now for a little while*.

In other words,



**Joyfully** praise God  
**in your present trials** (1:6-9)

**True Grace**  
**Firm Hope**

- Because God **reigns** over your trials (6)
  - Your trials are **passing**

Your trials are passing

They are just for a little while. God is reigning over your trials to make sure that they are temporary. The heat you are presently experiencing is short-lived.

Now someone might laugh at this. Ha! **Verse 6** says “for a little while,” but for me I have been suffering with this handicap or this broken relationship or this injustice for all my life! How could God honestly tell me my trials are passing?

<sup>10</sup> James 1:13-14; 1 John 2:16, 3:9; Hebrews 4:15, 6:18, 13:8

Loved one – compared to eternity, even 90 or 100 years of suffering is just a momentary affliction.<sup>11</sup> What we see here in this life is transient, but the unseen is eternal!<sup>12</sup>

Certainly, from the midst of pain we often ask, “When?” When will this be over? When will I no longer need to put up with this? When will God deliver me from this thorn in my flesh?<sup>13</sup>

But praise God today – because He controls the timer on your trial. Your trial will not last one second longer than God requires, and will not finish one second too early.

Now if you respond, This trial couldn't end soon enough for me!... look humbly at the next phrase of **verse 6**:

*if necessary,*

The grammatical construction of this phrase<sup>14</sup> doesn't convey possibility, but inevitability. Peter is not saying, “if need be...”, but “since it is necessary.” Trials are necessary for those who are united with Christ.

Suffering is the wake that necessarily follows behind salvation's boat.<sup>15</sup>


<sup>11</sup> 2 Corinthians 4:17

<sup>12</sup> 2 Corinthians 4:18

<sup>13</sup> 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

<sup>14</sup> First class conditional clause of fact

<sup>15</sup> Scot McKnight, The NIV Application Commentary, 1 Peter

**Joyfully praise God** True Grace  
Firm Hope   
**in your present trials** (1:6-9)

- Because God **reigns** over your trials (6)
  - Your trials are **passing**
  - Your trials are **purposeful**

Yes - God reigns over your trials and oversees their **purpose**.


There's no such thing as pointless suffering in God's economy. Your pain has a God-given point.

It doesn't mean that we always understand God's exact purposes while we're living through the test... but we do know from **James 1** that,

*the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete lacking in nothing.*

Your present trials have a God-controlled purpose of producing Christ-likeness.

*Various trials* come in different shapes and sizes, yet because they are purposeful, you can rest assured these various trials which seriously grieve you in **verse 6** are,

**Joyfully praise God** True Grace  
Firm Hope   
**in your present trials** (1:6-9)

- Because God **reigns** over your trials (6)
  - Your trials are **passing**
  - Your trials are **purposeful**
  - Your trials are **personalized**

**Personalized** by God just for you. Whether financial, health, relational, or spiritual trials... God reigns over all of them, and His faithfulness promises in **1 Corinthians 10:13** to never put you in a position where you must sin.

So take a deep breath, and praise God that He controls the timer, the target, and the thermostat of your fiery trial. There's no one else you'd rather have reigning over your trials than God who Himself fathered your new life through the resurrection power of His Son.

You can joyfully praise God because He reigns over your trials, and next in **verse 7**,

**Joyfully** praise God **True Grace**  
**in your present trials** **Firm Hope** (1:6-9)

- Because God **reigns** over your trials (6)
- Because God **refines** your faith thru trials (7a)

Because God **refines** your faith through trials (7a)

Here in **verse 7** we find two of God’s refining purposes for your present pain. First Peter wants you to know that,

**Joyfully** praise God **True Grace**  
**in your present trials** **Firm Hope** (1:6-9)

- Because God **reigns** over your trials (6)
- Because God **refines** your faith thru trials (7a)
  - Your trials **prove** genuine faith

Your trials **prove** genuine faith

He writes in **verse 7**,

*You have been grieved by various trials so that the tested genuineness of your faith ...*

Now just pause for a moment and think about that phrase. *The tested genuineness of your faith.* The NIV translation says, *the proven genuineness of your faith.* The NASB says, *the proof of your faith.*

How do you know if your faith is genuine or counterfeit? How do you know if your faith in Christ is profoundly real, or just superficially expedient?

Answer? Testing. Trials expose fake faith just like the sun dries up rootless plants in shallow ground.<sup>16</sup> Warren Wiersbe comments,

“A faith that cannot be tested cannot be trusted! Too many professing Christians have a ‘false faith’ and this will be revealed in the trials of life. ... The person who abandons ‘his faith’ when the going gets tough is only proving that he really had no faith at all.”<sup>17</sup>

Therefore embrace God’s refining purpose for your trial today in unwavering submission to God. For the tested genuineness of your faith *is more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire.*


In other words, genuine faith is more enduring and valuable than gold. Even gold will eventually perish and be consumed by fire... but genuine faith is indestructible and eternal!

This trial could actually be the best thing that ever happened to you, since like gold that is tested by fire,

<sup>16</sup> Matthew 13:1-9, 13-23

<sup>17</sup> Warren Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, 1 Peter



**Joyfully praise God** **True Grace**  
**Firm Hope**   
**in your present trials** (1:6-9)

- Because God **reigns** over your trials (6)
- Because God **refines** your faith thru trials (7a)
  - Your trials **prove** genuine faith
  - Your trials **purify** genuine faith

**Your trials purify genuine faith**

Your faith is like gold. It is purified and strengthened through heat.

When gold is being refined, it must first be melted in furnaces at temperatures up to 1900° Fahrenheit. Once it is melted, it is mixed with a special flux to make it more fluid and bind all impurities together. When it cools the impurities (called slag) rise to the top where they can be skimmed off, and the process is repeated until no more impurities remain in the gold. A goldsmith knows the gold is pure when finally the liquid gold becomes mirror-like and he can see his own face clearly reflected in the surface.


Now consider how God seeks to refine your faith through trials—just like with gold. Trials actually keep you trusting in God. Fiery trials drive you to the Word, and burn away your self-confidence. Trials drive us to prayerful dependence, and greater humility.

Indeed, if God uses trials to remove the slag of our sin and make us more reflective of Christlikeness... we must

not despise this very painful and pruning grace. God is reigning over the trials. He won't allow the fire to get too hot so as to consume the gold itself. God's child has no reason to get *bitter* in grief of present injustice... God is making you *better*.

Do you believe God is up to something good with your faith in Him – even now in your trouble?

Look at the rest of **verse 7** now and rejoice,

**Joyfully praise God** **True Grace**  
**Firm Hope**   
**in your present trials** (1:6-9)

- Because God **reigns** over your trials (6)
- Because God **refines** your faith thru trials (7a)
- Because God **rewards** your faith after trials (7b, 9)

**Because God rewards your faith after trials (7b, 9)**

Peter writes this,

*You have been grieved by various trials so that the tested genuineness of your faith ... may be found to result in praise, and glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

In other words,

**Joyfully praise God** **True Grace**  
**Firm Hope**  
**in your present trials** (1:6-9)

- Because God **reigns** over your trials (6)
- Because God **refines** your faith thru trials (7a)
- Because God **rewards** your faith after trials (7b, 9)
  - Your trials **produce** a future glory

Your trials actually produce a future glory ... when you respond to them with submission to God. Genuine faith always outlasts the trial<sup>18</sup> ... and results in our greater Christ-likeness which leads to greater eternal reward.

Of course we all understand that suffering alone doesn't make us more godly. The wrong responses to suffering can lead people on a downward spiral from discouragement,<sup>19</sup> to isolation,<sup>20</sup> to self-trusting bitterness,<sup>21</sup> to sinful living,<sup>22</sup> to spiritual disqualification.<sup>23</sup>

If we live for ourselves in this present age, the fire will burn us, not purify us.

But for those who have been caused to be born again by the living Spirit of God – for those with genuine faith – today's trial is chained to tomorrow's glory!

<sup>18</sup> Hebrews 10:35-39

<sup>19</sup> Hebrews 12:12

<sup>20</sup> Hebrews 12:13-14

<sup>21</sup> Hebrews 12:15

<sup>22</sup> Hebrews 12:16

<sup>23</sup> Hebrews 12:17

Think about the original audience of 1<sup>st</sup> century exiles reading Peter's letter. They were sorely persecuted. Chosen by God—but rejected by the world. Their earthly lives were full of shame and punishment.

But Peter writes – all genuine faith in Jesus Christ will be vindicated in the end! Persecution will turn to praise! Rejection to glory. Shame will give way to honor!

Although you may not be able to rejoice as you look at your suffering – let your soul swell with praise as you look ahead!!

Beloved – where are your eyes? Are you looking at the heat, or the harvest? Faith always focuses on the future as it walks through the fire. Your trials will produce a future glory as you become more like Christ, and...

**Joyfully praise God** **True Grace**  
**Firm Hope**  
**in your present trials** (1:6-9)

- Because God **reigns** over your trials (6)
- Because God **refines** your faith thru trials (7a)
- Because God **rewards** your faith after trials (7b, 9)
  - Your trials **produce** a future glory
  - Your faith **procures** a future salvation

Your faith procures a future salvation

**Verse 9** clearly declares that the *outcome of your faith will be the salvation of your souls*. Not the deliverance of your bodies or your wealth or your health. But the ultimate good for our everlasting being with Christ.

Faith doesn't earn salvation – but genuine faith believes that God rewards those who seek him.<sup>24</sup>

I love that phrase at the end of **verse 7** – *at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

Because Jesus is not absent. In fact Jesus is ever present with the redeemed in their trials through His Spirit. But He is invisible. He doesn't need to come ... He needs to be revealed!

So rejoice even though **verse 8** says, *though you have not seen Him...and though you do not now see Him,*

**Joyfully** praise God **True Grace**  
**in your present trials** **Firm Hope** (1:6-9)

- Because God **reigns** over your trials (6)
- Because God **refines** your faith thru trials (7a)
- Because God **rewards** your faith after trials (7b, 9)
- Because God's **reality** sustains you thru trials (8)

Because God's **reality** sustains you through trials (8)

Here's the truth. The Spirit of Christ is even now with you.<sup>25</sup> God cares for you.<sup>26</sup> He never leaves His children alone.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Hebrews 11:6

<sup>25</sup> Matthew 28:20; John 14:17, 15:26

<sup>26</sup> 1 Peter 5:7

<sup>27</sup> Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6

You say – but I feel alone right now as I'm being grieved by these various trials! Yes, those emotions are part of the grief and pain which God is using to strengthen and purify *your conviction of things not seen.*<sup>28</sup>

But God's promises grant you an unshakeable assurance that He Himself is with you, and His presence will carry you through to the end of this trial.

Because,

**Joyfully** praise God **True Grace**  
**in your present trials** **Firm Hope** (1:6-9)

- Because God **reigns** over your trials (6)
- Because God **refines** your faith thru trials (7a)
- Because God **rewards** your faith after trials (7b, 9)
- Because God's **reality** sustains you thru trials (8)
  - Your faith **perceives** God's presence

Your faith perceives God's presence

**Verse 8** says, *though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in Him and rejoice...*

Just like all of us Christ-followers today, the readers of Peter's letter hadn't personally walked and talked with Jesus in the flesh. They didn't experience miraculous visions of Christ meeting them in the agony of their pain.

<sup>28</sup> Hebrews 11:1

They simply had God's Word – through which the Spirit poured out God's love into their hearts.<sup>29</sup>

And Peter wants us to know that the vision of faith is always more blessed than the vision of sight.<sup>30</sup>

Church – to believe on the Lord is to love Him. Genuine faith loves Jesus. To love the Lord is to trust Him.

To believe means that you take God at His Word and act upon God's Word no matter how you feel.

So if you say that you love God, but you aren't regularly feeding on His Word and submitting your life to its topsy-turvy truths – then you must love something else more than Him whom you claim to believe.

Faith perceives God's presence through His Word – and all who love Jesus will desire to know more of Him through His Word. Remember – God intends to use our trials to help us grow our faith – and faith comes by feeding on God's Word.<sup>31</sup>

Only a soul that is feasting on God's promises during the famine of this world's persecution will be able to *rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.*

Because such a soul is sustained through trials as their

**Joyfully praise God** **True Grace**  
**in your present trials** (1:6-9) **Firm Hope**

- Because God **reigns** over your trials (6)
- Because God **refines** your faith thru trials (7a)
- Because God **rewards** your faith after trials (7b, 9)
- Because God's **reality** sustains you thru trials (8)
  - Your faith **perceives** God's presence
  - Your faith **partakes** in God's glory

faith partakes in God's glory

Loved ones – there is no greater joy than truly knowing Jesus by faith. Words fail us when we try to share the goodness of God and His abiding comfort that secures our souls in the middle of rough storms.

At the end of **verse 8** Peter highlights the overwhelming joy and glorious delight that **Psalm 16:11** says accompanies the radiant presence of God.<sup>32</sup> In the words of **1 John 3:2**,

*Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is.*

The reality of God's presence now, and His joyful glory which shall be revealed powers our faith until it's ultimate outcome – the very salvation of sinners by grace and for the glory of God.

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<sup>29</sup> Romans 5:5

<sup>30</sup> John 20:29

<sup>31</sup> Romans 10:17

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<sup>32</sup> C.f. Isaiah 60:5

So Peter continues his exhortation to troubled souls.

Joyfully praise God in your present trials. Because God reigns over your trials, refines your faith through trials, rewards your faith after trails, and personally sustains you through your trials by His Word.

**Main Point**



**God's great salvation  
compels troubled souls  
to praise Him.**

Peter wants us to live differently in our trials, because of God's great salvation which we have experienced through His grace.

**God's great salvation compels troubled souls to praise Him.**

So how is God's Word bringing life to your soul even now? How can you,

**Application**



**Praise God today  
for your secure  
future in Christ!**

**Praise God today for your secure future in Christ?**

Let me quickly offer three practical takeaways to help you rejoice in your salvation while you suffer. The rest of Peter's letter is going to flesh much of this out, but for now, first

1. Practice gratitude. Make a list of what you are thankful for and keep adding something new to the list every day. Thanksgiving powers praise.
2. Pray God's Word. Let the Scriptures speak your own thoughts for you as you pray through the Psalms or another biblical prayer. You can't trust your own thoughts while you're hurting so deeply – so pray the very will and words of God.
3. Pursue holiness and love for others. Refuse to isolate. Reject all justification of self-pity, complaining, despair, and lashing out...

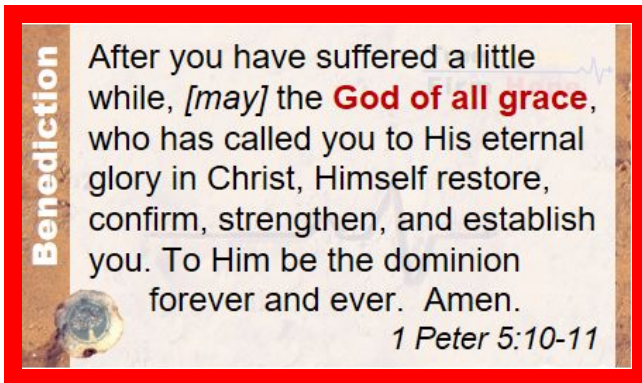
God knows what you're going through. And God is working through it all. So that even when you look forward – and backward, and to your left and to your right

– and still do not see Him<sup>33</sup> ...you can have the confident assurance that *He knows the way that you take; and when He has tried you, You shall come out as gold.* (**Job 23:10**).

*confirm, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup> To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. **1 Peter 5:10-11***



**Let's pray together as we dismiss.**



*And after you have suffered a little while, [may] the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, himself restore,*

## Recommended Resources on Our Living Hope:

- Job 23:8-10
- Psalms 18; 66:10; 73
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-14; 7:1-2, 13-16; 12:1-7
- Romans 5:3-5; 8:18-39
- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-11; 4:7-18; 12:7-10
- Philippians 1:29
- Hebrews 12:5-7
- James 1:2-4, 12
- Revelation 3:18
  
- “Where is God When Things Go Wrong” by John Blanchard  
<http://www.preachtheword.com/bookstore/whereisgod.pdf>
- “Dealing with Disappointment and Loss” Counseling Training  
by Neil Gerber, Bethany Community Church -  
<https://goo.gl/QqcyDU>
  
- Trusting God, Jerry Bridges
- The Cup and the Glory, Greg Harris
- Suffering: Eternity Makes a Difference, Paul David Tripp
- When Life is Hard, James MacDonald

## Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions

1. Review 1 Peter 1:6. “In this” or “wherein” refers back to the entire thought of verses 3-5. Review Peter’s entire opening argument to this letter up to this point, and try to summarize what “this” refers to in a single sentence. Why does “this” cause troubled hearts to rejoice?
2. Review 1 Peter 1:7. How do you know that someone’s faith is genuine? (Use Scripture in your response.)
3. Review 1 Peter 1:7-8. Discuss the relationship between “the revelation of Jesus Christ” and not being able to see Jesus in the midst of trouble (c.f. Job 23:8-10). How do you know Jesus is with you when you cannot see Him?
4. Note the word “rejoice” bookends Peter’s thought in verses 6 and 8. What makes you most happy? What or who gives you the greatest joy? How does your answers compare to Peter’s answers here?
5. Review 1 Peter 1:6-9. What would have been most encouraging to the original readers in their context of unjust persecution and exile? What is most encouraging and strengthening to you, and how come?
6. Review 1 Peter 1:3-12. What most encourages your faith in this single run-on sentence? What brings your soul the greatest hope and joy?