

I. Introduction (1 Peter 1:6-9)

A. *Last time: letter Recipients and their time of suffering*

1. Roman empire in the mid-60s not good for Christians – Nero blamed for burning of Rome
 - a) Christians dying for their faith.
 - b) Schaff: A "vast multitude" of Christians was put to death in the most shocking manner. Some were crucified, ...some sewed up in the skins of wild beasts and exposed to the voracity of mad dogs in the arena. The satanic tragedy reached its climax at night in the imperial gardens... Christian men and women, covered with pitch or oil or resin, and nailed to posts of pine, were lighted and burned as torches for the amusement of the mob...
 - c) spread throughout the Roman Empire, - places N of the Taurus mountains, like Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia (1Pet 1:1),
 - d) Christians EVERYWHERE needed spiritual strengthening because of the persecution.
2. Listen to Peter's description of his audience:
 - a) 2:12 slandered as evildoers
 - b) 2:19 suffering unjustly
 - c) 2:20 harshly treated
 - d) 2:21 Suffering like Jesus Christ suffered (which was all the way to death!)
 - e) 3:9 suffering evil and insult
 - f) 3:14 suffering for the sake of righteousness
 - g) 3:17 suffering for doing good
 - h) 4:1 suffering in the flesh as Christ did

- i) 4:12 fiery ordeal among them
- j) 4:12 Reviled for the name of Christ
- k) 4:16 Suffering for being Christians
- l) 4:19 Suffering according to the will of God
- m) 5:9 Suffering caused by Satan!

B. These people fit Jesus' picture of HOUSE on ROCK

Mt 7:24 ...wise man who built his house on the rock...
 “And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock.

1. 1 Peter = SPIRITUAL HOUSE BUILDING MANUAL
2. TELLS THESE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS HOW to BUILD A SPIRITUAL HOUSE
 - a) To LIVE VICTORIOUSLY in during TRIALS & PERSECUTIONS

C. APPLICABLE TO US!

D. 1 Peter 1 (=v.1-25) gives THE FOUNDATION.

E. Studying the 2nd WALL of our FOUNDATION =

F. Studying foundational aspects to understanding how Christians can live victoriously under persecution and in trials. – THE FOUNDATION to put UNDER your SPIRITUAL HOUSE!

1. 4 walls just like a house's foundation.
 - a) Author & Chosen Audience (v.1-2)
 - b) FAITH in light of a future finished salvation (3-12)
 - c) HOPE in light of Christ's coming revelation (13-21)
 - d) LOVE in light of God's written revelation (22-25)

G. Today: In 1 Peter 1:6-9 Study **6** biblical facts about Trials you need to know to live victoriously while in the midst of a trial or persecution.

H. Sum it up in one sentence: You need to focus on future glories in the midst of present Trials. – THIS FREES YOU TO LIVE IN JOY DURING PRESENT TRIALS

II. Began 2nd Wall of our Foundation LAST TIME

A. FAITH – the Key to this wall – BINDING Agent from our side

B. Specifically, V.3-5 = The 5 parts of the SALVATION INHERITANCE we put our FAITH in

C. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” = SOURCE OF OUR INHERITANCE

D. “Who according to His great mercy” = MOTIVE OF OUR INHERITANCE

a) Mercy changes our condition misery -> glory

E. “has caused us to be born again to a living hope through resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” MEANS OF OUR INHERITANCE:

1. Result of new birth – born to a living hope
2. MEANS = new birth which gives living hope in coming of that inheritance – hope built on Jesus rising from the dead.

F. V.4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, = NATURE OF OUR INHERITANCE:

1. What is the Inheritance we put our faith in?
 - a) realized possession in present HELD for FUTURE
 - b) Us: spiritual inheritance – heaven

- c) V.5 salvation ready to be revealed in the last time
- d) Fullness of eternal salvation in consummate form

2. Nature of our inheritance: “imperishable, and undefiled, and will not fade away”

G. “reserved in heaven for you who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” = SECURITY OF OUR INHERITANCE: -

1. already existing inheritance is under guard in heaven

a) We PROTECTED as if locked up as a prisoner

2. Notice v.5 :who are protected by the power of God through faith

(1) **EVERY section in v.3-12 shows that FAITH is our side of this FOUNDATION.**

(a) THROUGH FAITH we recognize the reality of our future inheritance

3. “for a Salvation ready to be revealed in the last time”

a) here = last part of salvation

b) = actual possession of the inheritance of v.4

c) in the last times = return of Christ and onward.

4. Today: Verses 6-9 –last phrase “ through faith for a Salvation ready to be revealed in the last time”

a) EXPANDS it

b) EXPLAINS it

III. V.6-9 -1 Peter 1:5-9 (LOOK AND READ)

5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 In this you GREATLY REJOICE, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, YOU GREATLY REJOICE with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

A. SHOW BREAK IN THOUGHT ABOVE for TRIALS

1. + FAITH

2. + REJOICE

B. Again: In 1 Peter 1:6-9 Study 6 biblical facts about Trials you need to know to live victoriously while in the midst of a trial or persecution.

IV. (1) Trials shouldn't diminish your joy

V.6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,

1. "in this you greatly rejoice!"

a) In this = v.3-5 = future salvation BROUGHT BY GOD'S MERCY

2. This is rejoicing in their present circumstances.

3. Greatly rejoice – very expressive

4. Stronger than rejoice
5. Always used of spiritual joy – rel. with God
 - a) Verb form: Present continuing joy that you participate in
 - b) Cause for joy – waiting for that inheritance!
 - c) Present Fruit of Spirit – Joy
6. = Rom 12:12 – rejoicing in hope
 - a) Hope in resurrection
 - b) Hope generated by indwelling Holy Spirit who is the guarantee of our inheritance
 - c) Eph 1:12 – hope in Christ
 - d) Eph 1:13 – Holy Spirit – pledge of our inheritance
 - e) Jesus: Matt 5:11-12
 - 11 “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.
 - 12 “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
7. Trouble doesn’t / shouldn’t diminish joy – “you greatly rejoice”

1 Peter 4:13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation.

B. Illustrations:

1. Marilyn MacCauley – cancer
2. Dennis Saeger – cancer

Hi Bill – no need to search for houses as the Lord has other plans for me and that would be going to my heavenly home shortly as the doctors give me 6 mos

or less to live. It is leukemia of the acute variety as opposed to chronic. Found out last week and am making all preparations for my home going. Pray that God will extend His mercy in my hour of deepest need and keep me strong and able to face the coming trial. This is not a sad moment as isn't being with the Lord the deepest desire of us all who profess Christ? There isn't any pleasures or attractions in this world that would want me to stay so I have opted out of the chemo treatment plan. With it I may have a few more years, but no guarantee. It is protracted an painful and would require much hospital time – no thanks – not when I can be in heaven. Preciousl in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

C. Application,

1. What are you rejoicing about in a trial?
 - a) The Trial? No.
 - b) The eternity that awaits and how God will use the trial to draw you closer to Christ-likeness and readiness for that eternity!
 - c) Hence – you can rejoice always!
2. BIBLICAL JOY IS A JOY THAT IS NOT AFFECTED BY CIRCUMSTANCES BUT RATHER AFFECTS THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
3. Christian JOY MAKES NO SENSE IN CIRCUMSTANCES BECAUSE IT'S NOT RELATED TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

D. FIRST biblical fact about Trials you need to know to live victoriously while in the midst of a trial or persecution.

1. Trials shouldn't diminish your joy – because you are rejoicing in the completion of Salvation that awaits you!

**V. (2)Trials are temporary=
v.6 even though now for a little while**

A. *brief in time relative to ETERNITY*

1. "For a little while" CAN = this life time!
2. now = RIGHT NOW

B. *1 Peter 5:10*

10 And after you have suffered for a little while,
the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal
glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm,
strengthen *and* establish you.

**C. *If you are suffering because God is chastening
you...Hebrews 12:10-11***

10 For they [fathers] disciplined us for a short time as
seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our
good, so that we may share His holiness.

11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful,
but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it,
afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

D. *Paul - 2 Corinthians 4:17-18*

17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an
eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,
18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at
the things which are not seen; for the things which are
seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are
eternal. = SAME perspective as PETER!

E. *We all know the temporal nature of Trials!*

1. Most of us are about to end one next week!
2. Carrie Summers, Marilyn MacCauley = rest of
her life – BUT NOTHING compared to eternity!
3. However, remember 1 Peter 5:10 again,

10 And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you.

a) Implication – most trials are temporary!

F. *TWO biblical facts about Trials you need to know to live victoriously while in the midst of a trial or persecution.*

1. **Trials shouldn't diminish your joy** – because you are rejoicing in the completion of Salvation that awaits you!
2. **Trials are temporary** – they will pass!

VI. (3) Trials are necessary = v.6 “if it is necessary”
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A. *Whatever comes into your life is necessary FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE.*

B. *NOT inevitable – NECESSARY.*

C. *Trouble serves a purpose*

1. Humbles us
2. Wean us,
3. Makes us look to heaven,
4. Reveal real love of our heart,
5. teach of God's blessings,
6. to learn to help others,
7. to chasten us

D. *1 Peter*

† **1 Peter 3:17**

17 For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

- 1 Peter 4:19
19 Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

E. God's chastening

Hebrews 12:7-11

7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?...9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?
... 11 ..., afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

F. Application = PERSPECTIVE: GOD WORKING FOR YOUR GOOD (Rom 8)

G. THREE biblical facts about Trials you need to know to live victoriously while in the midst of a trial or persecution.

1. Trials shouldn't diminish your joy – because you are rejoicing in the completion of Salvation that awaits you!
2. Trials are temporary – they will pass!
3. Trials are necessary – serve a purpose from God's point-of-view

VII. (4) Trials cause distress!

1. "you have been distressed" (Passive – put on you)
 - a) THEY ARE PAINFUL! AND SUPPOSED TO BE PAINFUL!
 - b) Paul? Despair...

2 Cor 1:8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life;

- (1) Paul faced something that was beyond human survival
- (2) extremely discouraged because he believed it threatened to end his ministry prematurely.

c) Jesus in the Garden ... : Matt 26:37

37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed.

B. Like a Doctor carefully explaining the reason for everything he is going to do to treat you.

1. Understanding helps you help him by doing your part
2. Helps your attitude – far less distressing knowing why things are happening

C. FOUR biblical facts about Trials you need to know to live victoriously while in the midst of a trial or persecution.

1. **Trials shouldn't diminish your joy** – because you are rejoicing in the completion of Salvation that awaits you!
2. **Trials are temporary** – they will pass!
3. **Trials are necessary** – serve a purpose from God's point-of-view
4. **Trials are distressing** – painful!

VIII. (5) Trials come in various forms

1. you have been distressed by various trials,

=“many colored trials”

2. James said the same thing about trials:

James 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

3. Paul 2 Corinthians 11:23-27

23 Are they servants of Christ?—I speak as if insane—I more so; in far more labors, in far more imprisonments, beaten times without number, often in danger of death.

24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes.

25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep.

26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

27 I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

4. Paul knew that trials come in various forms!

5. Peter is saying: **GOD WORKS PROVIDENTIALLY IN EACH LIFE, WORKING THE INTRICATE DETAILS TO ACHIEVE HIS PURPOSE FOR THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH!**

B. Knowing this you can't say – WHY ME? NO ONE ELSE HAS THESE PROBLEMS – Excuses!

1. True statements – wrong perspective.
2. God is giving you exactly what you need.

C. FIVE biblical facts about Trials you need to know to live victoriously while in the midst of a trial or persecution.

1. Trials shouldn't diminish your joy – because you are rejoicing in the completion of Salvation that awaits you!
2. Trials are temporary – they will pass!
3. Trials are necessary – serve a purpose from God's point-of-view
4. Trials are distressing – full of pain.
5. Trials come in various forms.

IX. (6) Trials serve a purpose: prove and reward your faith

1 Peter 1:7

that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

A. Trials are the proof of your faith

1. God brings trials into your life to prove your faith.

B. “that” – purpose

1. Literally: “the approved part of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishing and through fire being approved” –

C. “being more precious than gold which is perishable,”

1. Even though gold passes the test, it is still perishable – Faith is far more precious because it is eternal – Gold fails test of eternity
2. Why does Peter use gold? Standard commodity in economy – most precious

D. “even though tested by fire” = Peter using a metaphor of purifying gold

1. Gold is purified by fire
 - a) Dross comes off the top
 - b) When the gold is pure – person can see their reflection in the surface
2. trials come like fire to burn the dross off to see if there is something real there!
3. Faith is revealed in the fire.
4. When the dross is removed – God sees Christ-likeness in the faith that remains!
5. Who is this testing for?
 - a) God? Does He need to test your faith to see if it's real? No – He knows. - **BENEFITS YOU**
6. proof of your faith = “approved part” – taken from assaying gold
 - a) Refers here to the success of the test, not the process of testing – the result.**
 - b) If you go through a trial and try to solve it with stuff of world, that “stuff” will burn up with the rest of it (psychology, worldly releases, escapes, solutions)
 - c) But, if you rise up and come out the other side trusting / believing God then you know your faith is real.
7. Genesis 22 – Abraham and Isaac
8. Example: Compare the Reality of Apostles' faith in Acts verses – “O ye of little faith” in gospels

E. Rewards: praise and glory and honor

v.7 May be found [to result in praise and glory and](#)

honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ

1. V. 7 – “praise” – verbal praise
 - a) Goal – faith is the means to the goal of praise ... at revelation of Jesus Christ
 - b) Eternal reward
 - c) Rejoice because of this too!
 - d) God wants to grant YOU praise, glory, honor
 - e) 1 Peter 2:20 – This finds favor with God
 - f) Rom 2:29 – Praise is from God because true faith is from God.
 - g) He gives us the faith and then praises us for it!
2. V. 7 – “and glory” – perfection of person – He endows us with His glory
 - a) Rom 2:7 – seek for glory
 - b) Rom 2:10 – glory honor peace given to every man who does good
 - c) God gives us glory
 - d) Jesus is God incarnate, He has glory of God
 - (1)When we see Jesus Christ we will be like Him
 - (2)We’ll possess the glory of God
3. V. 7 – “honor” – probable = rewards
 - a) Rev 22:12 – Jesus come to give rewards
“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.
 - b) 1 Cor 3:12f – works tested by fire and rewards given for that which remains!
 - c) 2 John 8 Watch yourselves, that you might not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.

- d) Amazing – God who alone is worthy of praise, glory, honor will give all three to us
- e) The proof of our faith here will be gloriously rewarded at the revelation of Jesus Christ!

F. v. 8- Peter reminds his readers that they see Christ by faith now too!

8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, ...

1. This verse speaks of rejoicing – right now with unspeakable joy!
2. Why do we greatly rejoice – because
 - a) “You love Him”
 - b) “You believe in Him” (trust)
 - c) Deep pathos in this verse
 - d) Which apostle demonstrated the weakest **FAITH** in Jesus Christ?
 - (1) Peter was the leader to whom Jesus said **“you of little faith”**
 - (a) During storm on Sea of Galilee
 - (2) John 21 – 3X: Peter do you love Me?
 - (3) Peter saying -> you readers are far beyond where I’ve been
 - (a) **You don’t see Him yet love Him – I had to be asked 3 times! I saw Him! – I couldn’t sustain my faith**
 - (b) **After three years walking with Jesus Christ his faith failed.**

3. ...and though you have not seen Him, you love Him,
 - a) This is a great definition of the essence of a Christian
 - b) Of course, 1 Jn 4:19 – We love because He first loved us
 - c) I like Eph 6:24 – grace to all who love the Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love
4. V.8...“though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him” -
 - a) Jn 20:29 to Thomas: blessed who did not see yet believe

G. Finally, PETER COMPLETES THOUGHT FROM V.6

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V.8 end: you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, V. 9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

1. **joy inexpressible**
 - a) = higher than speech – above language –
 - b) cannot be communicated
2. **Full of Glory** – energized / endowed with a divine glory
 - a) Fruit of Spirit – love, joy!
3. v.9 literal: **“when you obtain the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”**
 - a) = v.5 salvation to be revealed at the last time.

X. CONCLUSION

A. *What a Package!*

1. V.3-5 Starts with our Future Salvation
2. Then Shows how we CONTINUE TO REJOICE – FOCUSED ON THAT SALVATION – WHILE in TRIALS
3. Like a doctor – teaches us all about TRIALS!
4. WRAPS IT UP in V.8-9 with EXACT SAME THOUGHTS.

B. *HOW WELL HAVE YOU HANDLED TRIALS ACCORDING TO THIS PACKAGE?***C. *HAVE YOU EVER CONTEMPLATED ETERNITY AS THE MEANS OF KEEPING YOUR JOY AND PROVING YOUR FAITH IN A TRIAL?*****D. *HAVE YOU EVER COUNSELED ANOTHER TO DO THIS?***

1. OR have you given them worldly advice for handling trials.
2. Does it even sound trite and superficial to focus on future salvation during a trial?

E. *It shouldn't because it is Biblical – It will work in the midst of trials and persecution!*