

Trials (And the missing ingredient)

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(Final)

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Review

- Peter's letter to believers who have suffered and been scattered. Telling them how to live in spite of the trials they face
- We worked on verse 6 using it as an outline last week
- The promise of joy ahead! There is great joy coming!!
- Make the choice to rejoice
- What do we have to rejoice about?
 - Born again - v3
 - Great expectation (resurrection) - v3
 - Inheritance - v4
 - Shielded by God's power through faith - v5
- Trials are coming

Introduction

- I want to take that 2nd promise *you must endure many trials for a little while*
- Today I want to share through verse 9

Exegesis

Genuine faith (v7)

- **1 Peter 1:7a** *These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold.*
- Faith saves us (It is by grace you have been saved through faith...)
- Intangible - do you have faith?
- Only known when tested
- Faith isn't faith until it's stood upon - in spite of everything
- Slide: *Trials test faith*
- These things that we face are here to refine our faith.
- Fire purifies gold - burning up the impurities - leaving only the gold. Trials burn up everything else - leaving faith.
- **Illustrate:** Didn't your priorities change somewhat when Covid began to spread and we were locked down?

Brings us glory when Christ is revealed! (v7)

So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

- Here on earth we will face *many trials*
- Is our faith still strong?
- Remember v5 - we are shielded by that faith - we believe nothing can harm us
- As our faith remains strong - when Christ returns, we will receive our reward. *glory, honor and praise*

- **Thought:** We are seeking those things now - from men, but when the faithful endure trials and still hold on to their faith - then when Christ returns we will receive our salvation and his reward!
- **Point:** This is the *wonderful joy* from verse 6!
- So see these trials as proving your faith, and rejoice
- See **James 1:2-4** *2 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.*
- He goes on to say that these are developing endurance which leads to perfection and completeness

Enduring trials with joy (v8)

8 You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy.

You love him, even though you don't see him

- Not an eyewitness like Peter
- They love him - because of His gift of salvation and the Holy Spirit that fills their lives (**Note** the fruit of the Spirit is love!)
- Remember Peter - "Simon do you love me"? Three times he was asked - do you agape me (2x) do you love (phileo) me (1x). These love (agape) him

Even though you don't see him - you trust him

- We know His presence through the Spirit
- We trust him because we love him
- We won't survive the trials because we won't trust him enough

You rejoice with joy unspeakable

- v6 Promises us joy - wonderful joy, but this verse talks about being filled with joy unspeakable!
- We are supposed to have joy along the way
- This is what sustains us until the end. The joy keeps us going in the difficult times

Reward for trusting (v9)

9 The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

- This faith produces salvation
- Faith that fails the test doesn't save us

Application

What if my life isn't like verse 8?

- The missing ingredient in trials is joy
- That joy comes from:

Agape love

- Do we love Jesus?
- Agape love?
- Jesus predicted the love of most would grow cold... *because of the increase of wickedness*
- See Revelation 2 - the church at Ephesus - they'd lost their first love!

- **Note:** Religion doesn't produce love

Trust

- We don't see him - but we trust him
- Trust steps out *into the unknown* to obey
- Trust understands that these tough times are strengthening our faith
- Trust keeps moving forward

Joy

- From being obedient
- Looking forward to reward
- Being filled with His Spirit
- For being counted worth
- Joy gives us the strength to carry on!

Closing

- Prayer for love
- Forgiveness of sins
- Trust
- Joy!