

1 Peter 1:3-7 Rejoicing in Suffering Part 2

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,
To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia,
Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 elect according to
the foreknowledge of God the Father, in
sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and
sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has
begotten us again to a living hope through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an
inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does
not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are
kept by the power of God through faith for salvation
ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little
while, if need be, you have been grieved by various
trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being
much more precious than gold that perishes, though it
is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and
glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

**How many of you have found yourself asking this
question in the past year "What in the world is
going on?"**

A)Our world seems unstable – We find ourselves
wondering what in the world is going on.

B)I am sure that the believers that Peter was
writing to in the first century felt the same way.

C)Peter is writing to people who are suffering,
1)he's writing to people who are being hammered
by persecution.

D)I am sure that many of them were also asking –
Lord what in the world is going on?

E)Reminder Peter is not writing this letter to
instruct them on how to escape suffering or avoid
suffering
1)He writing to encourage them how to ENDURE
SUFFERING

**Listen it is not enough that we ask the question –
what in the world is going on.**

A)We need to follow that question up with this one
– Lord how am I to respond?

B)Peter roots everything he's going to say to these
people to their identity in Christ.

1)We see that THEME throughout the book

C)Here is why that is so important: The absolute
key to living your life the way that God intended
AND in a way that honors God

1)is to Know who you are IN CHRIST –

**D)And then learn to respond to what life throws at
you from that reality.**

**The title of the message today is Rejoicing in
suffering part 2 V.6**

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little
while, if need be, you have been grieved by various
trials.

A)Grieved = lypeo – loo-peh-o in the Greek –
distressed.

B)It describes an emotional weight that is so great
it feels like it is going to crush you.

C)Some of you are there right now. Marriage
problems –

1)Problems with a wayward son or daughter
A Doctor diagnosis - or a recent loss in your life

D)The weight of that looms so large on your heart
at this time it feels like it is going to crush you

**And yet we read here that Peter says we are to
rejoice.**

A)Almost seems like he is being incredibly
insensitive – that Peter is in some ivory tower –
detached from reality

B)Before you think that – remember how he
identifies himself -**An Apostle of Jesus** – His
messenger

1)Peter is not writing these words of his own accord
– he is writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

**C)Remember being a Jesus follower at the time of
this writing in the Roman empire was actually
DANGEROUS**

1)PETER HIMSELF – would be killed for his faith –
crucified upside down

D)The things he writes we need to take heed to

We began to note last week that Peter is giving us reasons why we can rejoice –

A)Literally greatly rejoice – Jumping for Joy
I showed you what that looked like last week.

B)We noted The reason we can rejoice is connected to our identity in Jesus –

1)Peter gives us 7 things we need to remember

#1 This world is not our home V. 1 Pilgrims / Don't get too comfortable here.

“If you're God's child, you are called to cross-cultural living. This world is not, for you, the comfortable place that it once was, because you are now called by your Lord to operate by a different set of standards. Your heart is motivated by a different set of motivations. You serve a different King.” Paul Tripp

#2 You belong to God V2 – You are the elect according to the foreknowledge of God.

A)God has called you – you belong to him –

B)He is actively writing your story – but he is not just the author he is the hero of your story

#3 V.2 You have been given the Holy Spirit

A)He is in your life doing a unique work of Sanctification –

B)He is setting you apart for God's plan and purpose for your life

Today we are going to look at 4 more reasons why we can greatly rejoice in the midst of our suffering

A)4 reasons that are Connected to our identity in Christ.

B)Reason **#4 Because Jesus is Risen from the dead – V.3 Born again to a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead**

C)According to God's great mercy- Mercy = not getting what you do deserve –

1)My son Aaron- MERCY - neighbors..... ☺

D)The idea is God did something for us that we didn't deserve –

1)We were lost in our sin and rebellion – he sent Jesus to die –

2)Rose – offers life to anyone who believes –

E)That life comes from God's mercy – We are born again to a living hope.....from the dead.

Who better to write about this than Peter!

A)Of all the Disciples I relate to Peter the most.

B))Peter was type A – a 1 on the enneagram – can do kind of guy.

1)Self-confident – Impulsive -not one to back down –

2)and he even at times thought he was **more loyal** than anyone else.

C)**The night before Jesus would go to the cross –**

1)Jesus told his disciples all of you are going to forsake me tonight

D)Peter not me -maybe these other losers but not me – I am ready to die for you.

E)I believe those were not empty words -I believe that is how Peter really thought about himself

1)Jesus said – actually – you will deny me three times before the night is over rooster crows -- **No way!!!!!!**

Garden: Jesus says -watch and pray with me –

A)Soldiers come – Peters big moment – sword – Peter no

B)Peter had good intentions -flesh was weak

C)Sure enough – **Peter denied Jesus three times** – the 3rd time even swearing I %&#* know the man

1)Rooster crows

The Bible says in Luke 22:61 at that moment Peter and Jesus had eye contact

A)I don't think Jesus gave him **the stink eye** – you know stink eye –

B)that look my wife gives me/ that was stupid/ you are in trouble – **She is disappointed**

C)**It wasn't a - See I told you so look** – **I** don't think that was the look –

1)I think it was a look of compassion - Still love you

See when Jesus rose he said to Mary go and tell the disciples and Peter

A) Peter not a disciple anymore? Only in Peter's mind

B) Make sure you tell Peter – I want to see him
1) 1 Cor 15 Personal encounter with Peter

C) John 21 Jesus commissions Peter

Peter says according to God's great mercy.. born again to a living Hope through the Resurrection...

A) Here is a great lesson for us – **1st Your failures don't have to define you**

B) All too often we let our failures define us –
1) We define others by their failures

C) We say that flake – God doesn't say that – He doesn't say you know that flake is my son

1) He simply says – that is my son- I love him and I am committed to working in his life –

D) I am in it for the long haul with him or with her – **ISN'T THAT AWESOME!**

2nd lesson: The fact that we have been born again to a living hope teaches us that –

A) We have the power to live for Jesus right now

B) Paul prayed this for the Ephesians 1 I am praying that you would come to know by experience this *what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.*"
Ephesians 1:19-20

C) And Peter who denied Jesus 3X went on to do some incredible things living under the power of a **RISEN SAVIOR**

1) He went from **being a coward** to a man filled with **SUPERNATURAL BOLDNESS**

D) Peter and Paul want all of us know that same Power is available to all of us –

1) Born again to a Living Hope through the Resurrection....

E) We can rejoice in suffering – because God's grace is sufficient – more than enough is the idea

1) His power is made perfect – manifested in the greatest degree when we are weak –

2) when we are suffering

F) Living hope – Hope = an absolute expectation of coming good.

1) which leads us consider #5

#5 We have an inheritance in Christ v.4

4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

A) God has put away for you a spiritual trust fund that nothing can touch

B) You may not be rich right now. You may not be rich in wealth. You may not be rich in friends.

1) You may not be rich in experiences.

C) But you are marching toward unbelievable and incalculable, riches in Christ.

You have an inheritance in Christ that can never be corrupted, defiled, or tarnished.

A) These three verbal adjectives indicate that the inheritance is untouched by death,

B) unstained by evil, and unimpaired by time.

C) In other words it is unlike anything you have ever experienced here on earth.

D) New Cars depreciate \$1000.00 the minute you drive it off the lot

1) The next day – change your mind – different one – cost you a grand

E) Jewelry gets tarnished – has to be polished

But not our inheritance in heaven:

A) Our inheritance is death-proof, sin-proof, and time-proof.

B) And it is reserved= kept or guarded

1) A Reservation is supposed to mean – you can't get bumped - Airline seat –

2) table at a restaurant – someone more important arrived

C) You don't have to worry about that in heaven

So Peter comforts them by reminding them of what is waiting for them on the other side of that trial

A) It is like when a couple finds out that she is pregnant and they are going to have a baby.

B) They jump for Joy – even the soon to be mother!

1) Even though she knows what she is about to experience is going to be really hard.

C) Her hormones are going to change and get all out of whack

1) Her body is going to change and get super uncomfortable

D) She is going to start craving weird food combinations

1) She is going to get morning sickness and urge to regurgitate more than she ever has in her life

E) For 9 months she is not going to even feel like herself a lot of the time

And when the 9 months are over she is going to experience for a period of several hrs

A) The worst pain she has ever felt in her life

B) And yet – She jumps for Joy because when she holds her baby in her arms

1) It is all going to be worth it

C) And the soon to be dad jumps for Joy -because he isn't going to have to go through any of that stuff

1) Mother's day every month – right – come on

D) Peter says you can jump for Joy in knowing that what is waiting for you on the other side is going to be so worth it

E) Paul loved to write about this –

Paul endured a ton of suffering –

A) Knowing what was coming on the other side is what kept him going

Romans 8:18 ¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us

2 Corinthians 4:8, 9; 16-18

⁸ *We are* hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

The difficulties we are going through right now that loom so large in our hearts – crush us

A) In comparison to Heaven – light affliction

B) Heaven and eternity with Jesus will be so great that that the trial will seem like nothing

C) This is what Peter and Paul want us to understand

1) Heaven is not just a Destination for us - heaven and our inheritance is a Motivation

D) We can rejoice in suffering because we know what is coming is going to be far greater

Note this Peter says - you have an inheritance that is being kept for you by the power of God

A) But then he says and you are being kept by the power of God for your inheritance –

B) reason #6 We are being kept by the power of God

⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

C) Imagine this: You are searching for the best bank possible to invest everything you have in that bank.

1) Secure for you when you are ready to claim it

D) The bank manager says: Mr. Salvato We are guarantying that your inheritance will be secure here.

But then he continues But “We’re not just concerned about your inheritance; we’re concerned about you.

A)So this is what we are going to do: we’re going to give you the best bodyguard possible;

B)we’re going to give the best dietitian possible; we’re going to give you the best physician possible;

1)we’re going to give you the best counselor possible,

C)so that when your inheritance comes due, you will be fit and well and ready to receive it./ Enjoy it

1)How awesome would that be?

That is the guarantee that God gives. I am not just keeping an inheritance for you –

A)But I am keeping you for your inheritance by my power!

B)We can rejoice in the midst of suffering and trials – We know God has got me – He is for me

1)Nothing is going to happen to me that is out of the realm of his care and plan

C)Which leads us to reason #7 Your faith is being strengthened

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

Now note this: When Peter uses the word ‘tested,’ he doesn’t mean like an ‘exam.’

A)You’re not given a test that you somehow need to pass.

B)He actually is talking about tempering.

1)He’s talking about what you do with metal to refine it and to purify it.

C)He uses the picture of the goldsmith –

1)In order to purify the gold the goldsmith puts the gold in the fire.

D)All the impurities in the gold rise to the surface – scrapes off –

1)Lets the Gold rest – then back into the fire it goes – more impurities

Well in a similar way there are impurities in us – the fire of the trial brings them to the surface.

A)Allows us to see – the areas of our lives – still need to be transformed

B)Example from my life. - One of the areas that God is constantly working on in my life – patience

1)Never been a patient person. Not patient in situations

2)not patient with myself – not patient with others. I am Growing – my wife would attest

C)So for yrs- this has been a regular occurrence – when Driving in traffic

1)Doesn’t matter which lane I choose – slowest

Shopping: I am like a lot of men. Shopping is sport – the goal is to get in and out – fastest time. –

A)That is the win – In and out fastest time

B)So I go shopping – man on a mission - In and out fastest time

C)But this happens almost every time I go to a store – Which ever checkout line I pick – slowest

1)I choose the line with only 2 people – I get behind the person who has 10 items awesome – 50 coupons and 3 price checks

D)Self checkout – Awesome – Something happens to the machine I pick - Customer assistance

E)The other day Walmart – In and out – 2 things – Powerwalking – record time – all-time record –

1)Check out lane – one person cart is not too full – the Cashier is half way done

F)This is going to be an all-time record for me!

You know what happens I get the chatty Cashier –

A)She is acting like her and this customer are old time friends - Who knows maybe they were

B)chatting up a storm– precious time is ticking away - 30 minutes go by – actually probably 2 minutes

C) Suddenly I am thinking horrible things about these two people that I don't even know.

D) Catch myself - **Lord – what is wrong with me!** – He says – relax – slow down – just enjoy the moment

1) I just start laughing – Cracking up in Walmart
Looking at me – point to earbud

But then God allows something big to come into our lives like a Pandemic or an illness or a job loss

A) Then what happens? – Well I found myself early in the pandemic so irritable – no patience – grouch

B) Not fun to live with and work with – It was just a reminder of how flawed I still am

1) I am still in need of great transformation

C) Here is the thing we must understand:
In times of difficulty we often pray for God's grace of release or relief in those moments

D) God please end this – take it away

E) But instead of God's grace of relief or release - what we get instead is God's grace of refinement

You see God loves you too much to keep you the way that you are.

A) His end game in your life is to make you more like Jesus.

B) You know when the goldsmith finally knows the gold is pure?

1) He pulls it out of the fire he sees his reflection

C) **LIKEWISE** with you and me – God knows that we are finally transformed in an area of our life -

1) We come out of the fire -reflecting Jesus

D) That is exactly the point that Peter is making when he says -note v.7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, **may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,**

The trial is so your faith may be found to bring praise, honor and glory to Jesus when He is revealed.

A) Now I want to end today on this thought -this is huge don't miss this

B) Everything that God is now doing in your life is being done for the glory of Another.

C) And you will never understand the things that God brings into your life until you understand that all that He is doing

1) is done out of His zeal for His own glory.

There is no place of greater dignity and greater blessing and greater honor than that.

A) That somehow, and some way, my life would point to the glory of the Redeemer;

B) I exist for that purpose. Bring him glory

C) But this is where we so often struggle – we get sidetracked into thinking that life is about our glory

1) the glory of our good decisions that plan for a life without problems,

D) The glory of comfort, the glory of pleasure, the glory of our success, the glory of our achievement/ 1) that leads to glory of our acceptance.

And we want to bask in all of those physical temporal created glories.

A) We would rather have momentary glory than to be part of the larger glory of God.

B) And so when God challenges our ideas of glory, we find ourselves tempted to question His faithfulness,

1) question His goodness, question His love.

C) Ask you a Question be honest/ When is the last time you found yourself questioning God?

1) When was the last time you really questioned whether He was faithful, wise, good, true?

D) When was the last time you looked at someone else,

1) and you envied their life because they seemed to be having it easier than you?

E) Those reactions are all motivated by self-glory.

You will never understand what God is doing unless you understand there's a glory war being fought on the turf of your heart.

A)And God is zealous to deliver you and me from our obsession with our own glory

B)He wants us to be focused on the only glory that will ever satisfy our hearts:

1)the glory of the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

C)That my friends is when we begin to realize – My life, this suffering –

1)this trial is meant to be a platform upon which God is glorified

D)My life is a stage – the world around me is the audience –

1)they are watching to see how I will respond?

Will I run from God in the trial – complain and lose faith?

A)Or will I lean into Him so he can show up and do a work in me that is beyond my comprehension.

B)When that happens – Jesus gets the glory.