

First Peter 1:6-9

1:6

“rejoice” because the appearing of our Lord is coming.

- It is proper to look forward to Christ return as in 2 Tim. 4:8 “long for his appearing.”

“rejoice” means “extreme joy, expressed externally for the triumph

- this is not a command to rejoice but the result of the reality of understanding what the scriptures have just said.
- It is not a continuous laughing nor is it a denial of reality
- 1:8 indicates that the future joy is inexpressible now which means we cannot fully understand or experience the joy of the future

“little while” is “ολιγον” and means “little, small, few”

- time today is a “little” while compared to eternity
- also, life goes in seasons so times of sufferings will end and pass away here

“you may have” are hypothetical not an affirmation that every day is bad.

- “may have” from ει “if” δεον εστιν “is necessary” means suffering is not normal and may be the current condition, but may not be the universal condition of all believers or the continual condition of these believers.
- This indicates that not all our days are bad
- Not all days are filled with trials
- Suffering is not normal part of the life God ordained.
- Suffering was not ordained by God at creation before the fall
- Remember any suffering you do encounter is allowed by God, not caused directly by God. There are other forces (evil, Satan, sin nature, men’s will) that cause suffering.

“Suffer” or “Suffer grief” or “being fretted” is from the Greek verb *lupeo* which always refers to the emotion of the suffering/grief:

- Matt. 14:9 – “The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted.”
- Matt. 17:23 – “They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life.” And the disciples were filled with grief.”
- Matt. 18:31 – “When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.”
- 1 Thes. 4:13 – “We do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.”

In verse 1:6 Peter uses the exact same phrase “all kind s of trials” and also contrasts it with joy like James does in **James 1:2**. Likewise, **Romans 5:3** follows the similar flow of this common NT theme.

- James 1:2 – “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know 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.”
- Romans 5:3-5 – “Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

“Temptations” is from *peirasmos* (πειρασμος) and can refer to “trials”, “testings”, “temptations.”

All of these test the character.

These trials/tests are not identified nor is their source mentioned. These trials/tests come because of a believer’s commitment to the Word, Jesus and the plan of God. The trials could be

- social and economic trouble
- physical persecution
- personal rivalries (as in James 1:2 and described in the first 2 chapter of James)
- struggles of Christian service (2 Cor. 11:23-29)
- Probably NOT referring to sickness or illness since there is a different word used for that

“**all kinds**” describes the wide variety of tests/trials described above with the word “periasmos”
These tests/trials include:

- trials from forces that want to destroy us
- test from God as he proves us faithful in order to promote us
- temptation that comes from our own sin nature
- the believer has three enemies: the world, the flesh (sin nature) and the devil

1:7

Explains why these trials are allowed to come

The test is to refine and prove your faith as genuine.

Genuine faith that is focused on pleasing God is contrasted with working to please men.

Paul was concerned about himself being found genuine and approved at God’s judgment and resisted the temptation to seek the honor of pleasing men:

- 2 Cor. 10:18 – “For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.”
- Galatians 1:10 – “Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.”
- 2 Cor. 5:9 – “So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.”
- 1 Thessalonians 2:4 – “On the contrary, we speak as men approved (dokimadzo) by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men, but God who tests (dokimadzo) our hearts.”
- 2 Tim. 2:15 – “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

“**proved**” is “δοκιμαζω”

- testing something or someone to see if they qualify with the intention of approving them if possible.
- The word was used to test medical school graduates for their Doctors degree

Faith that is working is to the glory of God. The trials are not for God’s glory.

Gold mine. . . .sends samples for testing. . . .report returns saying the gold is good!

The approved report makes the whole mine valuable.

Our faith is the good report that what we have is genuine and there is more where that came from.

Refining gold. . . . The refining process purifies the gold.

- Isaiah 48:9-11
- Jeremiah 9:7
- Zechariah 13:9
- Malachi 3:2-5
- James 1:2-5

“**Praise, Glory, Honor**” refers to us receiving praise, glory and honor from Jesus

- Matthew 25:14-30 – “well done”
- Romans 2:29 – such a man’s praise is from God, not from men

- 1 Cor. 4:5 – at that time each will receive his praise from God
- Matthew 25:21 – faithful with few things, put in charge of many things
- Matthew 25:34 – take possession of the inheritance prepared for you from the beginning

Daniel 12:10,

*“Many will be purified (**examined**), made spotless (**cleansed**) and refined (**fuse and cast**), but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.”*

The process of testing faith with trials:

(1 Peter 1:6 “**all kinds of trials**”; James 1:2 “**trials of many kinds**”)

1. Examined faith with trial
2. Cleanse believer of wrong thinking, actions, and attitude
3. Cast them eternally into the image of Christ that was formed in life

1:8

Verse 1:6-7 dealt with faith.

Verse 1:8 addresses love and hope.

Together 1:6-8 cover the three greatest virtues: Faith, Hope and Love of 1 Corinthians 13.

- Faith is in the promises God.
- Love is for Jesus, the Son of God
- Hope is in the character of the Son of God
- These three virtues combined together today in our lives give us a taste of the joy we will experience when this life is over and our salvation is complete.
-
- Today this joy is inexpressible because we do not have the capacity to experience it or to understand it. But, we do have enough faith, hope and love to get us through the trials in this life as we are prepared for the full capacity of God.

“love him”

- not seen but known through the word by the Spirit
- To love baseball you must know and understand the game otherwise it is boring.
- To love art you must have some knowledge and artistic character otherwise it does not communicate with the observer.

The Power of the Word

Peter had seen Jesus, the living Word. Peter knew and loved Jesus.

These believers had not heard nor seen Jesus. Yet, they also knew and loved Jesus.

How? They had heard the living Word taught and met Jesus, who is the Word, through the truth they heard.

In the OT believers were to love God and have faith in God.

In the NT this love and faith is towards Jesus.

Another clear indication that Jesus is God.

Because of their faith believers can have joy in the midst of trials.

1:9

What is taking place right now in life is the completion of the salvation experience.

1. At the point of salvation our spirits are born again, given new life, brought into the kingdom of light, etc.
2. During life our minds, attitudes, will, intellect, emotions, etc. are developed and formed into the image of Christ.
3. At the resurrection our bodies will be resurrected from natural bodies that are corruptible and made from the dirt to incorruptible, glorious bodies (like Christ's) that are spiritual. (1 Cor. 15:50-58)

THREE PHASES OF SALVATION

PHASE #	THEOLOGICAL TERM	TIME IN BELIEVER'S LIFE	EFFECT ON HUMAN CONDITION	RESULTS	DELIVERANCE FROM SIN
ONE	Justification	Past	Spirit	Born Again	Penalty of Sin Removed
TWO	Sanctification	Present	Soul (Mind)	Renewed Mind	Power of Sin Removed
THREE	Glorification	Future	Body (Flesh)	Resurrected Body	Presence of Sin Removed

Verse 1:9 tells us that we are receiving or are in the process of getting our goals:

The salvation of ourselves.

1:9

“receiving” is a verb used for obtaining a prize or reward in the Greek

- 2 Cor. 5:10 - appear before the judgment seat to **receive** what is due him
- Eph. 6:8 – “the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does”
- Heb. 11:13 – OT saints did not **receive** what was promised
- 1 Peter 5:4 – “When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will **receive** the crown of glory that will never fade away.”

“Soul” is “psyche” and is not used as Paul uses it to refer to the immaterial part of man but is used by Peter as reference to the whole person. This is the way Peter’s Bible, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures, used the word.

1:10

This salvation is more than a new Christian idea.

Peter says it was the focus of the entire OT.

The OT prophets spoke of this day of salvation.

1:11

The prophets lacked some information:

- the time of this salvation (Greek says, “what time”)
- the context of this salvation (Greek says, “what type of time”)

1:12

The prophets did know they spoke not to their generation but to a future people.