"Rejoicing Despite Trials"



I Peter 1:6-9

9-19-2021

INTRODUCTION:

***We have a reason to rejoice no matter what trials we face in life!**

Four Reasons to rejoice even when going through difficult times:

I. You can rejoice despite trials in light of <u>God's gracious salvation</u> (v. 3-6a)

II. You can rejoice despite trials by knowing that <u>God is refining your faith</u> (v. 6-7)

III. You can rejoice despite trials because you <u>see Christ through eyes of faith</u> (v. 8)

IV. You can rejoice despite trials because you <u>know the final outcome</u> at the end of your life (v. 9)

CONCLUSION:

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***We have a reason to rejoice no matter what trials we face in life!**

Four Reasons to rejoice even when going through difficult times:

I. You can rejoice despite trials in light of _____ _____ (v. 3-6a)

II. You can rejoice despite trials by knowing that _____ _____ (v. 6-7)

III. You can rejoice despite trials because you _____ _____ (v. 8)

IV. You can rejoice despite trials because you _____ _____ at the end of your life (v. 9)

"Rejoicing Despite Trials"



I Peter 1:6-9

***We have a reason to rejoice no matter what trials we face in life!**

Four Reasons to rejoice even when going through difficult times:

I. You can rejoice despite trials in light of <u>God's gracious salvation</u> (v. 3-6a)

Bless Him because you have received:

1. AN <u>UNDESERVED MERCY</u> (v. 3a)
2. A <u>NEW BIRTH</u> (v. 3b)
3. A <u>LIVING HOPE</u> (v. 3c)
4. AN <u>ETERNAL INHERITANCE</u> (v. 4)
5. A <u>SECURE SALVATION</u> (v. 5)

Regarding trials:

1. They exist <u>presently</u> (*"now")*
2. They <u>don't last</u> forever (*"for a season"* = for a little while)
3. They are <u>unavoidable</u> (*"if need be")*
4. They cause <u>grief</u> (*"heaviness"* = sorrrow, distress)
5. They come in <u>different types</u> (*"manifold"* - various)
6. They have a <u>good purpose</u> (from God's vantage point)

Truths about your "faith" -

1) Faith will be <u>tested</u>
2) Faith is <u>precious</u> and <u>valuable</u> (more so than *"gold")*
3) Faith like gold is <u>refined</u> through the fire (God speaks of *"fiery trials"* - 4:12)
4) Faith's true value will be <u>evident</u> at <u>Christ's second coming</u>

II. You can rejoice despite trials by knowing that <u>God is refining your faith</u> (v. 6-7)

III. You can rejoice despite trials because you <u>see Christ through eyes of faith</u> (v. 8)

IV. You can rejoice despite trials because you <u>know the final outcome</u> at the end of your life (v. 9)

Salvation is in <u>three tenses</u>:
Past - We <u>have been</u> saved (Acts 26:18)
Present - We <u>are</u> saved (Eph. 2:8)
Future - We <u>will be</u> saved (Rom. 13:11)

"Rejoicing Despite Trials"

I Peter 1:6-9
9-19-2021

INTRODUCTION:

Depression: A real problem in today's society.

ILLUS: The rejoicing (jumping, hands raised, hugging, screaming, shouting, hoot & hollering, and celebration) of the 2004 baseball World Series winners - the Boston Red Sox (after not winning a World Series in 86 years; since 1918).

Such rejoicing is nonsensical in light of eternity and in light of things of real value. It was vanity! What was gained? A team trophy? A ring? Extra pay? A fleeting flood of fame? Nothing of any real substance!

***We have a reason to rejoice no matter what trials we face in life!**

Four Reasons to rejoice even when going through difficult times:

I. You can rejoice despite trials in light of <u>God's gracious salvation</u> (v. 3-6a)

V. 6

"Wherein" - refers to *"the last time"* and all of the undeserved mercy, new birth, living hope (v. 3), eternal inheritance (v. 4), and secure salvation (v. 5) to be ultimately experienced at that "*last time.*"

These blessings of God give the believer a strong basis for rejoicing!

Bless Him because you have received:

1. AN UNDESERVED MERCY (v. 3a)

2. A NEW BIRTH (v. 3b)

3. A LIVING HOPE (v. 3c)

4. AN ETERNAL INHERITANCE (v. 4)

5. A SECURE SALVATION (v. 5)

II. You can rejoice despite trials by knowing that God is refining your faith (v. 6-7)

V. 6

"Rejoice" - an active, energetic, vivacious, bubbly joy.

"Rejoice" - To rejoice greatly.

--Because of God's goodness and salvation

Luke 1:47 -*"And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior"*

Rev. 19:7 -*"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready."*

Acts 16:34 -*"And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house."*

--Irrespective of circumstances

Mt. 5:12 -*"Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."*

V. 6-7

Note the similarity and contrast between I Peter and James.

I Peter starts the epistle by mention our victory in Christ and then goes to trials; James starts the epistle by mentioning the trials we face and then how to victoriously deal with them.

"Temptation" - (*peirasmos)* = a test designed to prove one's character. This type of test is caused by the world, flesh, or devil and is (from Satan's vantage point) designed to make one fall and sin!

In the context of I Peter, the temptations came to the believers via the persecution and opposition of the unsaved world.

Regarding temptations:

1. They exist presently (*"now")*

2. They don't last forever (*"for a season"* = for a little while)

   > Trials do not last forever. God "keeps His eye on the clock and His hand on the thermostat. If we rebel, He may have to reset the clock, but if we submit, He will not permit us to suffer one minute too long" (Wiersbe, p. 393).

3. They are unavoidable (*"if need be")*

4. They cause grief (*"heaviness"* = sorrrow, distress)

5. They come in different types (*"manifold"* - various)

6. They have a good purpose (from God's vantage point)

"That [in order that] the trial [dokime - test to prove genuineness] of your faith. . . might be found unto praise, and glory, and honor..."

"Manifold" -

Will your faith stand the test of "dark days, disappointments, sorrow, criticism, rebuffs, physical pain, unrecognized service. . ." (Anderson, p. 16).

V. 7

Every trial is a test of our *"faith"* (cp. Ja. 1:3 - *"Knowing that the trials of your faith..."*)

Trials don't so much build faith as they reveal faith and refine faith.

Truths about your "faith" -

1) Faith will be tested

2) Faith is precious and valuable (more so than *"gold"*)

   Gold perishes (when God melts this earth, the gold will disintegrate, but faith has an enduring, lasting effect and value).

3) Faith like gold is refined through the fire (God speaks of *"fiery trials"* - 4:12)

Job 23:10 - *"But He knoweth the way that I take; when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold."*

"Tried with fire" - at that time of history, Hero was literally testing the faith of many Christians by fire.

I heard recently that they have invented a modern method of refining gold. They send an electrical charge through the gold and this expels any impurities. The resultant gold is clear as crystal! The Bible said this 2,000 years ago! (Rev. 21:21 - *"the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass*"

"Like physical muscles which must be exercised in order to be strengthened, our faith must be exercised if it is to grow strong" (Barbieri, p. 38).

It has been said that the eastern goldsmith kept the metal in the furnace until he could sere his face reflected in it. So our Lord keeps us in the furnace of suffering until we reflect the glory and beauty of Jesus" (Wiersbe, p. 393).

Even veteran Christians have trials; sometimes greater ones. Why? The measure of trials may depend on God's purpose for a particular individual.

"Equipment used in lunar (and other outer space) exploration is much more thoroughly tested than materials to be used in a car" (Anderson, RBP, Adult Instructor, p. 15).

4) Faith's true value will be <u>evident</u> at <u>Christ's second coming</u>

May our enduring faith bring praise, glory, and honor to Christ at that momentous day!

"While we may not be able to rejoice as we look <u>around</u> in our trials, we can rejoice as we look <u>ahead</u>" (Wiersbe, p. 393).

Who will ultimately receive the glory because of your faith? Christ will!

Paul's objective was that Christ should be magnified in his body *"whether through life or death"* (Phil. 1:20).

"Appearing of Jesus Christ" = The *apocalypsis* or revelation of Jesus. The Rapture is <u>not</u> some secret, unseen, unobservable event. When the Rapture comes, the world will not be left guessing as to what happened!

At that point, His glory will be revealed, and the world will be shuddering in terror (I Thes. 5:3; Rev. 6:16-17).

III. You can rejoice despite trials because you <u>see Christ through eyes of faith</u> (v. 8)

"The reference to the Lord Jesus reminds Peter that, even in his day, few Christians had been privileged to see the Lord" (Barbieri, p. 38).

Those believers were willing to suffer for someone they had never seen! How? Through faith.

"Whom" - referring to Jesus Christ (v. 7).

"Having not seen" - no one today sees Jesus Christ.

His "appearing" is future (v. 7).

The last apostle to see the risen Christ with mortal eyes was the Apostle Paul (I Cor. 15:8 - *"And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time."*

"Having not seen" - we didn't see Him in the past . . . ***"Though now ye see him not" -*** we are not seeing Him in the present.

We see through eyes of faith! *"We walk by faith and not by sight" (*II Cor. 5:7).

We do not have to see Christ to love Him and believe in Him.

To not see and yet believe is more blessed than seeing (Jn. 20:20; cp. II Cor. 5:7).

"Ye love" - (*agapao)* - this ability to have love for Christ comes from Christ.

Don't leave your *"first love"*! (Rev. 2)

"Yet believing, ye rejoice" - Our ability to rejoice, even in the midst of adverse circumstances comes from our belief, our faith, our hope, our confidence in the trustworthiness of God's promises.

"Believing, ye rejoice" - The measure to which we believe will determine the measure to which we rejoice!

Much faith = much rejoicing
Little faith = little rejoicing
No faith = no rejoicing

"Joy unspeakable" = inexpressible joy; a joy that can't be put into words. A joy the world cannot perceive and cannot have. Not even angels can know the joy of a redeemed sinner!

Our rejoicing is not only inexpressible, but it is *"**full of glory**"*!

We rejoice because we literally "have been filled with glory." This glory refers to the high and exalted position we have in Christ. It also points to the guaranteed glory that will transform our mortal bodies in the future. (Rom. 8:28-30).

"This inexpressible joy is really a little taste of heaven (glory) that God permits us to enjoy while we are still here on earth" (Barbieri, p. 38). We don't have to wait till Heaven to enjoy our salvation.

Charles Spurgeon used to say, "Little faith will take your soul to heaven, but great faith will bring heaven to your soul."

A "full of glory" joy is a joy that is not earthly or "worldly" but is from above!

IV. You can rejoice despite trials because you know the final outcome at the end of your life (v. 9)

Salvation is in three tenses:

Past - We have been saved
(Acts 26:18"*To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."*

Present - We <u>are</u> saved (Eph. 2:8)

Future - We <u>will be</u> saved

(Rom. 13:11 - *"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed";* cp. I Jn. 3:2)

"The end" = the goal or completion; the finish line; the end result.

"Faith" in Christ will not let the believer down; we will receive God's promise of salvation.

"The salvation of your souls" = The deliverance or rescue from perishing.

Our souls will not be lost and damned. Nothing is more important to us than our souls (Mk. 8:36 & 37), and nothing is as guaranteed as God's promise of salvation.

Don't look to the "right now" when going through trials, but to the goal (end) of your faith - your complete and final salvation.

CONCLUSION: