



PRAYER & WORSHIP

Opening Prayer/Worship Song: Worthy is the Lamb

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

1 PETER 1:1-9 (ASK SOMEONE TO READ LOUD AND CLEAR)

- 1** 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,
- 8** whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,
- 9** receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

INTRODUCTION

- Do you consider yourself as someone who can withstand pain and suffering?
- How do you think a Christian should respond to pain or crisis?
- Today we shall study how we can cope with trials and what should be our attitude while facing it.

DISCUSSION (- GET ANSWERS -)

- Peter is one of Jesus' 12 Apostles.
- He was an important and influential man in the early church. A man of authority in the church
- Jesus spoke more to Peter than to any other individual:
 - Peter confessed Jesus more boldly and accurately than any other disciple.
 - Jesus praised Peter more than any other disciple (He is not perfect and later denied Jesus -but was restored after by the resurrected Christ).

1. To whom do you think the letter of Peter addressed to? How did he describe them?

ANS.: verse 1 & 2

- To Christians / followers of Christ

- **To the pilgrims:** A pilgrim is someone who lives as a temporary resident in a foreign land. Pilgrims are sojourners and travelers.

Meaning: Christians pass their days upon earth, but their citizenship is in heaven.

- **(of Dispersion)** - he saw Christians as sprinkled throughout the world
- **Elect according to the foreknowledge:** Meaning, Christians are chosen, **chosen by God** in a particular and unique sense.
- **In sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience:** The result of election is sanctification (Holiness; set apart for God's special purpose) and obedience (follow God's instructions/commandments).



2. What does it mean to be saved and to live saved.?

ANS.: verse 3-5

A. According to His abundant Mercy - All God's goodness to us begins with mercy. It is from His mercy that all our hopes begin

B. Begotten - when a person is saved, they are made a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17).

C. Begotten to a living hope: We are born again to a living hope because we have eternal life in a **Savior who has conquered death Himself when Jesus resurrected from the dead**. The hope lives because it is set upon an inheritance incorruptible that can never fade away as it is reserved in heaven. **This is a in contrast to any inheritance here on earth which is temporary.**

D. Incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away: Peter was not able to describe our inheritance for it is too great for him to describe. All he can tell us is what it is not. - it can't perish, it can't spoil, and it can't fade away.

E. Who are kept by the power of God through faith: The promise of our inheritance is **ASSURED** because we are kept by the power of God. This enables us to endure through faith until the coming of Jesus.

3. What was Peter's response to God's gift of salvation?

ANS.: verse 3

➤ When Peter considered the salvation of God, his immediate response was to simply **praise Him**.

4. What are the purposes of trials and sufferings to those who are saved?

ANS.: verse 6-7

a) In this you greatly rejoice: We rejoice in God's keeping power when we are grieved by various trials, knowing that He will keep us as our faith is tested by fire.

b) Faith... like gold tested by fire: Faith is more precious than gold - and if gold is tested by fire **HOW MUCH MORE** our faith be tested.

- Faith is tested to show if it is sincere
- Faith is tested to show its strength
- Faith is tested to purify it, to burn away the dross from the gold

Gold is one of the most durable of all materials. Yet it too will one day perish, but our faith will not.

c) When we undergo testing, it brings praise, glory, and honor to our Lord Jesus Christ.

d) To receive the end of our faith - the salvation of our souls

- Even though we do not see God, we love Him... we believe in Him so we are able to endure through trials and face them with faith and joy - **the end result is salvation**
- Jesus is no less real even if we had not seen Him.

5. As a Christian, what should be our attitude when we face various trouble or trials?

ANS.: verse 6 & 8

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7. What would be the results of such attitude?

ANS.: verse 7 - 9

- God is glorified
- God / Jesus is revealed (testify/witness)
- It will strengthen our faith

8. By studying this passage, what sustains or enables us when we meet various troubles / trials?



ANS.:

- Hope (vv. 3, 4, 5, 9)
- Faith (v.7, 3)
- Love (v. 8)

REFLECTION

1. How do people respond to trouble, trials, or sufferings? What would be the result of such attitudes?

ATTITUDES	RESULT
a) Use own wisdom / way	- problem may worsen
b) Blame God	- Become far from God
c) Hopeless / depressed	- seek other means of help (medium, horoscope, spiritist etc.) thus making it worse

2. Based on this passage, how can we endure suffering faithfully, and even rejoice?

- Remember that we are pilgrims (refugees/travelers) in this world and our stay here is only temporary; Jesus prepared a place for us in eternity – and there we will be with God forever!
- If we really love someone, it would be difficult for us to endure (examples: Mother's love to her child, a father's sacrifice for his family, a dear friend who is always there and suffers for us, etc.)
- Remember that God have given us a **living hope** - we have a glorious future to look forward to and it is for eternity. (**1 Cor. 15:53, Rev. 21:4**).
- Remember that God is the All-Powerful and in control, and nothing happens to us without His permission. He loves us and knows what is best for us. There is no such thing as bad luck. (**Matt. 10:29-31, Psalm 91:7, Phil. 1.21**).

CONCLUSION

- Christians are not exempted from trouble, trials, and tribulations.
- These sufferings are actually for our benefit, for these tests our faith and also give glory to our Lord.
- As we continue to endure and overcome, being sustained by God's living hope, we will be able to rejoice with unspeakable joy - ***a joy so profound as to be beyond the power of words to express.***