

1 PETER

Battlefield Christianity

1 Peter 1:6, Review – March 4, 2018

This is the key verse of the epistle.

Rejoicing in trials and suffering is a strange combination. Testing produces joy — it is the end result

Hebrews 12:11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Suffering occurs sixteen times in this epistle.

Another way to outline 1 Peter is:

- (1) Suffering and rejoicing — 1 Peter 1:1-13
- (2) Suffering and holiness — 1 Peter 1:14 — 1Peter 3:22
- (3) Suffering and fellowship — 1 Peter 4
- (4) Suffering and glory — 1 Peter 5:1-4
- (5) Suffering and others — 1 Peter 5:5-14

Suffering is a key element for the Christian life.

2 Timothy 3:12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

1 Peter 4:12-13 “ Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.”

I PETER 1:7

A. Suffering is a test to help the believer evaluate his own faith.

- a. Mark 4:4.16-17 - parable of the rocky soil
- b. John 6:60-66 - Jesus had a lot of followers when they thought the message was happy days are here again. But when they heard the hard sayings of Jesus, they fell away never to follow him again.

B. Suffering refines faith and character.

God wants our faith to grow, and suffering is one of the best stimulants to that growth.

The testing God allows in our lives isn’t to destroy us, but to prove our worth. The testing is important to our Christian development.

More precious than gold that perishes...which implies that our faith does not perish! This is what Jesus prayed for Peter

Luke 22:31-32: Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And **when** you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

C. Suffering produces strong faith.

- a. The problem with the biodome from the 1980’s.

- b. *James 1:2-4 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.*

D. Strong faith produces praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Honor is the esteem and value which one has for the Lord.

Praise is the expression of that esteem.

Glory is the luster that a person who has been so honored and praised, will shine brightly in Heaven. "The GLORY of the LORD SHONE around."

"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father who is in heaven" Matthew 5:16

Our faith and our deeds should shine a light on God and expose HIS GLORY, HIS LIGHT, HIS ESSENCE.

I PETER 1:8

A. Though you have not seen Him, you love Him.

- a. Thomas - John 20:24-29
- b. 2 Corinthians 5:7 - We walk by faith and not by sight.
- c. Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of what we hope for, the proof of what is not seen!
- d. Simon Peter had seen Christ personally, but most of the believers had not. The Holy Spirit had revealed Christ to them, and they loved Him. Think what it will be when we do see Him!

B. Though not seeing Him now, you believe in Him.

- a. Because of suffering, many of us have a hard time seeing God in the midst of difficulty but as people of faith we believe even when we do not see him actively...for we know what is hidden, HE will reveal!

- b. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego - Daniel 3:16-20

“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

- c. The Story of Job.

C. Faith in Jesus (which is 1 part believing in Jesus and 1 part loving Jesus) produces JOY.

I PETER 1:9

A. Faith does not perish, but there is an end to faith!

The end goal of faith...when faith is complete we will be in glory and the future tense of our salvation will be complete... (flip back to February 11th and see the three tenses of salvation).

B. Our joy will be complete and we will be giddy with unspeakable, indescribable, and gloriously glowing joy!

C. The end goal of faith is salvation and the outcome of faith, which is loving God, believing in Him and trusting Him; that outcome is JOY!

- a. Make our joy complete: John 15:11, I John 1:4, 2 John 1:12, John 16:22-27
- b. Nehemiah 8:10 - The joy of the Lord is our strength!
- c. How I became a Christian.

D. GOD receives Glory in our suffering and we receive JOY!

- a. Romans 8:28
- b. Romans 8:31-39