

Rejoicing in God Through Trials 1 Peter 1:6–9 (NKJV)

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.

This subject seems to be a prevalent theme in many of the New Testament Epistles.

We saw it when we went through James.

James 1:2–3 (NKJV)

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

Persecution was a daily experience for the believers of the 1st century.

1 Peter 4:12–13 (NKJV)

12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

2 Timothy 3:12 (NKJV)

12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

I. In this you greatly rejoice

A. Rejoice greatly

1. It conveys the idea of jubilant exultation, spiritual “gladness,” *W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, and William White Jr., Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Nashville, TN: T. Nelson, 1996), 266.*

2. Matthew 5:11–12 (NKJV)

a. 11 “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 **Rejoice and be exceedingly glad**, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

3. ON SLIDE: To exult, leap for joy, to show one's joy by leaping and skipping denoting excessive or ecstatic joy and delight. Hence in the NT to rejoice, exult. Often spoken of rejoicing with song and dance (Sept.: Ps. 2:11; 20:5; 40:16; 68:3). *Spiros Zodhiates, The Complete Word Study*

II. Although we suffer grief

A. Meaning

1. 1 to make sorrowful. 2 to affect with sadness, cause grief, to throw into sorrow. 3 to grieve, offend *James Strong, Enhanced Strong's Lexicon (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995).*
2. It is used of the feelings of Herod when he knew he must have John the Baptist beheaded.
 - a. Matthew 14:9 (NKJV)
 - b. 9 And the king was sorry; nevertheless, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he commanded it to be given to her.
3. It is used of the state of the disciples when Jesus told them that at Jerusalem He must die.
 - a. Matthew 17:23 (NKJV)
 - b. 23 and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.
4. It is used of the attitude of the fellow servants of the ungrateful servant when they saw what he did to a fellow servant after having received mercy from his master.
 - a. Matthew 18:31 (NKJV)
 - b. 31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.
5. It is used of Jesus in the garden as He prayed.
 - a. Matthew 26:37 (NKJV)
 - b. 37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.

B. Our trials come from various sources

1. And they can vary in how they affect us.
2. Obviously a severe illness is still less grievous than the death of a loved one.
3. One thing we must all realize, that it is not profitable to try to comfort someone by minimizing their grief by telling them how bad you or someone

else has it.

4. But I think we can say with Jesus, in the world we will have tribulations.

5. John 16:33 (NKJV)

a. 33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

C. For a little while.

1. All grief and trials are temporary.

a. Even if the last for years or to the end of this life they are still temporary.

b. As I heard long ago, the Bible says, and it came to pass. It did not come to stay.

2. 2 Corinthians 4:17 (NKJV)

a. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

3. 1 Peter 5:10 (NKJV)

a. 10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

III. Purpose of our suffering.

A. Nothing in the life of a Christian is an accident.

1. Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

a. 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

2. Luke 12:4–7 (NKJV)

a. 4 “And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. 5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him! 6 “Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. 7 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

- B. That the genuineness of your faith,
1. I thought that all faith was genuine.
 - a. Not at all.
 - b. Remember how James spoke of a dead faith.
 - c. And how often did Jesus speak to the disciple and say, “O ye of little faith.”
 2. But God has a way to make our faith shine like the noon day sun.
 - a. Is it through giving us all good things and making our lives peasant?
 - b. No it is through the trials of life that our faith shines to the glory of the one who called us out of darkness.
 - c. We had hardly seen Abraham’s faith until he obeyed God and set to offer his only son as a sacrifice.
 3. How is God causing your faith to shine?
 - a. It could be by your self-sacrifice for Him.
 - b. It could be by your faithfulness in serving others.
 - c. By most probably it is through Him bringing you through the trials of this life.
- C. Being much more precious than gold that perishes,
1. Though it is tested by fire
 - a. Gold is purified by fire.
 - b. The heat is put to the gold and the impurities come to the top and are then removed to make the gold pure.
 - c. Psalm 12:6 (NKJV)
 - d. 6 The words of the LORD are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.
 2. The trying of your faith is of greater value than all the gold that used to be in Fort Knox.
- D. What is it that you do?
1. Some people make widgets.
 2. Some people stock grocery shelves.
 3. Some turn students into scholars.

4. Some make cars or make cars run.
5. But do you know what God makes?
6. He makes you.
7. He makes you like His Son.
8. And for God that is what this life is about.
9. Romans 8:29 (NKJV)
 - a. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

E. May be found

1. To praise
 - a. This is the why.
 - b. To the praise of God.
2. To honor
 - a. To the honor of God
3. To glory
 - a. To the glory of God.
4. At the revelation of Jesus Christ
 - a. And someday it will be that we will all stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ to receive our rewards.
 - b. So that we can cast them at the feet of Him who made it all possible.
 - c. Amen.