

Do You Love Me **1 Peter 1:8-9 (NKJV)**

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.

I think that as Peter writes these things he remembered his own lack of faith in the beginning. And yet he is asking these to believe even though they did not see.

Remember when Peter went to the tomb that it says that he did not know what to think even though it says that John believed.

John 20:4-8 (NKJV)

4 So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. 5 And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, 7 and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.

The disciple had heard the report of the women but did not believe.

Luke 24:11 (NKJV)

11 And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them.

I think that when Peter says “Whom having not seen you love” his mind went back to the night long ago when he had pledged to die with Jesus if needs be. But he denied that he even knew Jesus when the test came.

And also I think his mind went back to that morning when, after the resurrection, they had went fishing all night and caught nothing. And when Jesus appeared to them on the shore there were the three times that Jesus asked Peter, do you love me, and Peter was struck that Jesus had asked him three times.

But everything is different now.

Peter preaches a risen Jesus Christ to the world and through the work of regeneration by the Spirit of God they believe and love the One who died in their place.

I. Whom having not seen.

A. Peter had seen the living and resurrected Christ.

1. For 40 days Jesus had ate with them, taught them, they had touched the One who was dead and is alive for ever more.
2. How could he help but believe.

3. To not believe would be to deny his own eyes.
 4. To not love such an One would have shown him to be out of touch.
- B. But these to whom Peter writes obviously had never seen the Lord, either before or after His death and resurrection.
1. How they could they love one whom they had never seen.
 2. Never heard a word that He taught.
 3. Never saw the miracles that Jesus had done, healing the sick or raising the dead.
- II. You love; although you have not seen Him
- A. Here is the amazing thing about the Christian faith.
1. We have not even seen Peter, or John like those first century believers.
 2. Our faith is based on the testimony they left us in a book that has endured for thousands of years.
 3. Regardless of how long ago it was we still love Him.
 4. The apostles were the witnesses that left us the testimony that the Holy Spirit used to quicken our hearts and open our eyes.
 5. When we read the stories of the life and death of Jesus our hearts are changed by the same power that raised Jesus from the dead.
 6. It quickens our hearts and puts His love in our hearts.
 7. The Christian cannot help but love Jesus more than life itself.
- B. Love is the greatest.
1. Faith, hope love but the greatest spiritual gift we have been given is love.
 2. It is a burning all consuming love that we have.
- III. Although we cannot see Him with our eyes yet we believe.
- A. FAITH AND SIGHT CONTRASTED
1. John 20:29 (NKJV)
 - a. 29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
 2. Romans 8:24-25 (NKJV)
 - a. 24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we

hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

3. 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)
 - a. 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.
4. Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)
 - a. 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
5. Hebrews 11:7 (NKJV)
 - a. 7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.
6. Hebrews 11:8-10 (NKJV)
 - a. 8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

- B. The etymological background of this term helps establish the contemporary meaning. **In Hebrew it originally referred to a person in a stable stance, (his feet positioned so he could not be pushed over). It came to be used metaphorically for someone who was dependable, loyal, or trustworthy.** *Robert James Dr. Utley, The Gospel according to Peter: Mark and I & II Peter, vol. Volume 2, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International, 2000), 217.*
- C. Peter's main point in the verse is clear. Believers who suffer are not dashed to the ground by their troubles. They love Jesus Christ and rejoice in him, even though they have never seen him and do not see him now. Their lives are characterized by a hope that fills the present with love and joy. *Thomas R. Schreiner, 1, 2 Peter, Jude, vol. 37, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003), 70.*

IV. Inexpressible joy; unspeakable joy, full of glory.

- A. Joy does not come from the abundance of things we have. Joy comes from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and lives. The joy of the Lord can be ours only when Jesus is Lord and we are possessed by the Holy Spirit. Authentic joy cannot be contrived or fabricated. It must come from the heart. *Paul A.*

Cedar and Lloyd J. Ogilvie, James / 1 & 2 Peter / Jude, vol. 34, The Preacher's Commentary Series (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc, 1984), 118.

- B. The possession of joy is always dependent upon living in a vital relationship to Christ. *Paul A. Cedar and Lloyd J. Ogilvie, James / 1 & 2 Peter / Jude, vol. 34, The Preacher's Commentary Series (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc, 1984), 118.*
- C. This joy and glory cannot be hidden. It is a flowing fountain produced by the Spirit (cf. John 4:14; 7:38). It is a witness to the power of the gospel to all who come into contact with gospel people under pressure. *Robert James Dr. Utley, The Gospel according to Peter: Mark and I & II Peter, vol. Volume 2, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International, 2000), 218.*
- D. Peter repeats the word he used earlier, "you greatly rejoice" (v. 6). **The word depicts shouting for joy that cannot be contained.** *Baker New Testament Commentary - Baker New Testament Commentary – Exposition of James, Epistles of John, Peter, and Jude.*
1. John 15:9-11 (NKJV)
 - a. 9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and **that your joy may be full.**
 2. John 4:14 (NKJV)
 - a. 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a **fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.**"
 3. John 7:38 (NKJV)
 - a. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, **out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.**"
- E. This joy, which Peter speaks of, is **found even amidst suffering** (cf. 4:13; Rom. 5:3; 1 Thess. 5:17). This joy is one of the unexpected blessings of the Spirit in times of testing and persecution. *Robert James Dr. Utley, The Gospel according to Peter: Mark and I & II Peter, vol. Volume 2, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International, 2000), 218.*

V. Receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls.

A. The tenses of salvation

1. We have been saved

2. We are being saved
 3. And we will continue to be saved.
- B. This is the present participle which means that we are in the process of receiving.
- C. The salvation of our souls.
1. What Peter has reference to is our lives, our total being.
 2. God will not fail.
 3. He is in the process of saving us completely and finally.
- D. 1 John 3:2 (NKJV)
1. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.