

FAITH + LOVE = SALVATION

Sunday, July 27, 2025 -- 1 PETER series -- msg 7 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

1 PETER 1:3-9

English Standard Version (ESV)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, **5** who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In this you **rejoice**, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, **7** so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in **praise and glory and honor** at the revelation of Jesus Christ. **8** Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

REVIEW & CONTEXT:

- 1) **First Peter** is written to Christians in ancient Turkey who were suffering under persecution.
- 2) **The greeting infers**, 'You may be rejected by the world, but you are chosen by God!'
- 3) **The first section (1:3-9)** is a HUGE encouraging reminder of the following:

You can **REJOICE** because...

- God's great mercy has brought you a living hope through Jesus's death and resurrection that leads to an inheritance that is beyond comprehension and being guarded until eternity
- The trials you go through are necessary because they validate and grow your faith for God's glory and your joy.
- Your love and trust in God brings about the greatest blessing you could hope for -- the salvation of your soul.

A Life Phrase of my wife, Marcie Coleman -- "You have a choice to rejoice."

KEY OBSERVATIONS & APPLICATIONS: vs 8-9

1. Notice the critical relationship between FAITH/TRUST/BELIEF and LOVE.

A) FIRST referenced is FAITH/TRUST/BELIEF : 'though you have not seen Him...'

HEBREWS 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

These people had never seen Jesus in person. But they had heard all about Him and had come to believe in Him.

B) SECOND referenced is LOVE : 'though you have not seen Him, you love Him'

Notice WHICH koine Greek verb for love is used... agapao (agape)

There is a huge backstory in Peter's own experience from 20 years earlier!

JOHN 21:15-17

English Standard Version (ESV)

15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, **do you love** me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." **16** He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, **do you love me?**" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." **17** He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, **do you love me?**" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

4) Notice Jesus's big question to Peter: DO YOU LOVE ME? Jesus asks 3 times.

The English word *LOVE* has four different possible words in Koine Greek. Two of them are used here.

Agapáō (ἀγαπάω) versus **Philéō** (φιλέω)

Agapáō love (Agape)

Carries the sense of 'unconditional, self-sacrificial love'

The highest, unconditional commitment regardless of the beloved's worthiness.

Philéō love

Conveys warm friendship, 'brotherly affection'—

Less 'royal' or covenantal; more transactional and reciprocal.

vs 15 Question **1** -- Jesus asks with ἀγαπάω ("Simon, do you **agapáō** me?")
Answer 1 -- Peter answers with φιλέω ("Lord, I **philéō** you.")

vs 16 Question **2** -- Jesus asks with ἀγαπάω ("Simon, do you **agapáō** me?")
Answer 2 -- Peter answers with φιλέω ("Lord, I **philéō** you.")

vs 17 Question **3** -- Jesus asks with φιλέω ("Simon, do you **philéō** me?")
Answer 3 -- Peter answers with φιλέω ("Lord, I **philéō** you.")

NOW, after the coming of the Holy Spirit into his life and 20 years of ministry, Peter is teaching and celebrating that these true Christians have to come to truly believe in Jesus and love him genuinely.

2. KEY STATEMENTS about FAITH/TRUST/BELIEF and LOVE:

A) To know and believe in Christ is to love Him.

WHY? Because if you know who He is as the sinless Son of God who in loving self-sacrifice saves sinners from eternal death and gives them eternal life, the only response can be to love Him.

If you don't love Him, then it means that you don't really understand who He is and what He has done.

1 JOHN 4:19 -- *We love because He first loved us.*

Our love for Him (AND our love for others) is a RESPONSE to His love for us.

8 *Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and **rejoice** with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, **9** obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

Notice the **Apostle Paul's** powerful statement about KNOWING/BELIEVING/ TRUSTING Christ:

PHILIPPIANS 3:8-11

8 *Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of **knowing** Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through **faith** in Christ, the righteousness from God that **depends on faith**— **10** that I may **know him** and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, **11** that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.*

B) An intimate love for Christ is the source and essence of true JOY.

1 PETER 1:8 *"Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory."*

PSALM 16:11 *"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."*

JOHN 15:10-11 *"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love... These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."*

3. BELIEVING in CHRIST and LOVING CHRIST is the only thing that SAVES US. vs 9

And both of these originate from God!

- **Faith/belief is a gift from God** -- Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 1:29; Acts 13:48; Romans 12:3; Hebrews 12:2
- **Love is a gift from God** -- 1 JOHN 4:19 -- *We love because He first loved us.*
 ROMANS 5:8 -- *But God commended His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
 JOHN 3:16 -- *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son that whoever would believe in Him would not perish but have everlasting life.*

KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR YOUR LIFE:

- **CONSIDER PETER'S FAILURE TOWARD CHRIST.**
 On his own he failed. Miserably.
- **CONSIDER CHRIST'S REDEMPTION TOWARD PETER.**
 Christ believed in Peter when Peter didn't believe in Peter.
- **CONSIDER WHAT THIS MEANT TO THOSE BEING PERSECUTED.**
 They knew Peter's story and knew that he knew what he was talking about, FROM EXPERIENCE.
- **CONSIDER WHAT THIS MEANS TO YOU.**
 If you genuinely know and love Jesus -- rejoice in your salvation... from EVERYTHING!
 If, in all honesty, you cannot say that you know and love Jesus, repent of your sin and run to Him in belief of what He as promised you.