

GLORY AND JOY THROUGH TROUBLE

Sunday, July 20, 2025 -- 1 PETER series -- msg 6 -- 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) The Apostle Peter**, one of those closest disciples to Jesus, is writing to Christians several years after our Lord Jesus finished His earthly ministry, ascended to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to God's people.
- 2) The initial recipients** of this letter were believers spread through ancient Turkey who were experiencing persecution for their faith by the Roman government and society.
- 3) The letter begins** with this extraordinary reminder that though the world may have rejected them, *God has not!* Indeed, He **chose** them for salvation and has given them a living hope through the resurrected Messiah in whom they believe and follow.

TWO INTRODUCTORY STATEMENTS:

- 1) GOD'S WORD** always gives His people exactly WHAT they need WHEN they need it. It is sufficient in every way for every need.

JEREMIAH 15:15-16

15 *O Lord, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and take vengeance for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance take me not away;
know that for your sake I bear reproach.*

16 *Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O Lord, God of hosts.*

- 2) GOD'S WORD** is beautifully and brutally honest.

It tells us everything we need to know about God, ourselves, our world and our future. It does not avoid any difficult truth. It runs from nothing and it hides from nothing.

In this case, the God's Word addresses the reality and purpose of our suffering.

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.

A TESTED and PROVEN FAITH -- BRINGS GLORY TO GOD and JOY TO YOU.

- Like it or not, our all-wise and loving God is at work to test and mature the faith of His true people.
- He uses trouble, trials and tragedies to bring about His higher and greater purposes.
- When tested, people of true faith become better. People of false (or weak) faith become bitter.
- Developing a strong, biblical theology of suffering will help you make it through trouble.

MATTHEW 13:20-21 [Some claim faith in God but immediately fail when it is tested.]

*"As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has **no root in himself**, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away."*

JAMES 1:2-4 [True faith develops maturity when tested.]

*"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."*

2 CORINTHIANS 13:5 [This was a call to repentance for the corrupt Corinthians.]

"Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!"

JOB 23:10 [In Job's 'struggle with his trouble' he has confidence that GOD is testing his faith.]

"But He knows the way that I take; when He has tried me, I shall come out as gold."

OBSERVATIONS FROM VERSES 6 & 7:

1) The trials don't last. vs 6 *though now for a little while*

Also see **1 Peter 5:10**

And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

2) The trials serve a purpose. vs 6 *if necessary*

This reveals that the trials ARE necessary in accomplishing God's good plan for you.

10 Things Accomplished Through Trials:

- 1 - Trials teach us humility.
- 2 - Trials wean us from worldly things.
- 3 - Trials focus our attention on heaven.
- 4 - Trials reveal our true priorities and affections.
- 5 - Trials increase our appreciation for God's blessings.
- 6 - Trials equip us to help others.
- 7 - Trials strengthen godly character.
- 8 - Trials chasten/correct us from sin.
- 9 - Trials increase our dependency on God.
- 10 - Trials produce in us JOY.

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.

OBSERVATIONS FROM VERSES 6 & 7: continued

3) **The trials bring pain.** vs 6 you have been grieved by various trials
 λυπέω *lupeó* : To grieve, to cause sorrow, to distress

4) **The trials come in many forms.** vs 6 you have been grieved by various trials

The Greek word for 'various' (ποικίλης **poikilos**) literally means 'many-colored'.

So there are many kinds of trials: physical, emotional, financial, mental, social, medical, ethical, etc

Interesting note: 1 Peter 4:10 uses that same Greek word (*poikilos*)

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
 as good stewards of **God's varied grace.***

As our trials may be multi-colored, but so is the grace of God!

There is grace to match every trial. There is no trial without God's grace to go with it.

5) **The trials produce confidence and joy in the believer.** vs 7

so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—

You are not proving anything to God. He already knows.

Instead, God is proving something in you. He wants YOU to know.

6) **Greater faith is what pleases, praises, glorifies and honors God.** vs 7

HEBREWS 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Also see: 2 Thessalonians 1:3; James 1:2-4; John 15:1-2; Philippians 1:6; Romans 10:17; Mark 9:24

QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION & APPLICATION:

1) Can you think of people who have become **better** due to trials?

Can you think of people who have become **bitter** due to trials?

Think on the lives of Cain, King Saul, the Rich Young Ruler, Judas Iscariot.

How have you responded to the trials in your life? (down deep in your spirit before God)

2) Who is at work when trials come your way? You or God? In what ways? How?

3) Who gets the **glory** when we respond in faith to the trials in our life? Who gets the **joy**?

4) How did **Jesus** respond to the trials in His life? -- hint: see 1 Peter 2:23

What does this indicate about how **you** should respond to trials in your life?