

1 Peter - Week 5

Enjoying God's Glory Now

1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. 14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." 17 Since you call on a Father, who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. 18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. 21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. 22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. 23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

Peter is teaching that this present dynamic of life when it's hard, can and will turn suffering and trials into GLORY, not just in the future but for today.

Peter's Four Principles

1. We are called to LOVE Christ.

- We say we love God, but sometimes that love is CONDITIONAL on how He is treating us.
- God's love not only enables us to return love but also to ENDURE when it's hard.
- So, what should be our response to trials? We should cry out to God in true love and begin to WORSHIP.
Warren Wiersbe says: "When you find yourself in some trial or hurt, IMMEDIATELY lift your heart to Christ. Worship will take the poison out of the experience and replace it with healing medicine."
- Let me add: FORGIVENESS can do the same thing.

2. We are called to TRUST Christ.

- Trust: "an assured RELIANCE on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something."
- Trust and faith means this on our part: "I am surrendering all to God and obeying His Word, in spite of the circumstances or what my 'FEELER' might want to believe."

- Love relationships should have this in common: “Am I **SAFE** ? Am I **SANE** ? Am I **SECURE** ?”
- God’s love gives all three to us without wavering.

How do we grow in faith during times of testing?

The same way we grow when it’s all going great:

- Feed on the **WORD** daily.
- Our fellowship with Christ when we are consistently in the Word will not just **STRENGTHEN** our faith, it also deepens our love for God.
- We should surround ourselves with fellow believers who can help carry some of our **BURDENS**.

3. We are to **REJOICE** in Christ.

- We may not be able to rejoice **OVER** the circumstances, but we can rejoice **IN** them by centering our hearts on Christ.
- It’s a joy that cannot be truly expressed with words, but it shows itself in **ACTIONS**.
- We cannot **WORSHIP** God when we hold back. We miss the power of God if we stay at the bottom of our own Mt Moriah. We also miss the **PROVISION** of God.

4. We must learn to **RECEIVE** from Christ.

Final thoughts:

- Whatever your past might include, remember God is always about the **FUTURE** and hope.
- Do not resent or resist the trials of life but view them as God-**DESIGNED** instruments of spiritual growth.
- Continue to **EXAMINE** your own life and look for the marks of holiness and obedience to Christ.
- Cultivate a deeper **LOVE** for God by showing love to those who come into your life.