

The Life and Letters of Peter

Lesson Six: Imperishable Joy

Divide this section into paragraphs. Write a title for each in the margin.

1 Pet 1: 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

7 These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,

9 for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care,

11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

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.

24 For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall,

25 but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

Rejoicing Faith

<p><i>1 Pet 1: 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.</i></p> <p>Look back at v 1-5. What's "this" that causes great rejoicing?</p> <p>Amid the rejoicing, what's happening now?</p>	<p>1 Pet 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia,</p> <p>2 who have been chosen according to the fore-knowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.</p> <p>3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,</p> <p>4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you,</p> <p>5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.</p>
<p>7 These have come so that your faith-- of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-- may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.</p> <p>What are "these" in v 7?</p> <p>Look at the sentence diagram. How does Peter describe faith in this verse?</p> <p>What do trials do to our faith?</p>	

<p>8-9 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.</p> <p>Fill in the chart:</p>	
Though you have not seen him...	
Though you do not see him now...	
You are filled with joy because	
<p>What kind of joy is this? What does this mean to you?</p> <p>What earlier verse does this connect with in the chapter? Circle the connecting words and draw a line between them on page 1.</p>	
<p>What do you find out about the prophets in this section?</p>	<p>10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, 11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.</p>
<p>The writer of Hebrews 11 cites a series of faithful men and women who looked toward the promise of their reward. They were commended for their faith. In 1 Peter 1:8 -9, these believers had not seen Jesus either, but would receive their reward. What would they receive?</p>	<p>Hebrews 11:1-2, 13, 39-40 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for... All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth... These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.</p>

To-do list

<p>"Therefore" always indicates a conclusion based on the previous information. What's the "therefore" there for in this verse?</p> <p>List the six to-do's in these verses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1.2.3.4.5.6.	<p>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.</p> <p>14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.</p> <p>15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;</p> <p>16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."</p> <p>17 Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.</p>
<p>How does verse 13 connect with verse 7? Circle the words and draw connectors on page 1.</p>	
<p>This section began with "in this you greatly rejoice", and we saw that "this" refers to salvation. What do we know so far about salvation from Peter's letter (verses 1-17)?</p>	

<p>What previous verse does v 18 conceptually connect with?</p> <p>Remember, Peter's audience was primarily Jews. What did Peter mean by the "empty way of life" of their forefathers?</p> <p>What significance would the lamb have to the Jews?</p>	<p>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,</p> <p>19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.</p> <p>20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>What do you find out about Jesus in these verses?</p>	

<p>The Jews would consider themselves purified by a sacrifice. What purifies these believers?</p> <p>There is another to-do in this section. What is it?</p> <p>The concept of perishable/imperishable repeats again in this section. Connect v 23 with your earlier connectors on p.1</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.</p> <p>24 For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall,</p> <p>25 but the word of the Lord stands forever." And this is the word that was preached to you.</p>
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Born Again

<p>Peter says, " For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God."</p> <p>What makes the believer "born again" in this verse?</p> <p>Look at Jesus' explanation of born again in John 3:1-18. How does he describe being born again?</p> <p>Jesus reiterates the "imperishable" concept that Peter has used. What becomes imperishable when one is born again?</p> <p>How about you? Are you born again, or are you condemned? What are the conditions for being born again?</p>	<p>John 3:1-18 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."</p> <p>In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."</p> <p>"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"</p> <p>Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."</p> <p>"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.</p> <p>"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven--the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.</p> <p>"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.</p>
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Review

Fill in this chart with the concepts in this chapter

Perishable	Imperishable

There are past, present and future events mentioned in this chapter. On page 1, draw a clock by each concept to indicate time, then draw an arrow by the clock to indicate past ←, or future →. List the events in this chart, indicating the number of the verse.

Past ←🕒	Present 🕒	Future 🕒→

Lesson for Life

How does having a past and future perspective impact your present as you face the day-to-day trials of life?

What happens to your faith during trials? Step back and look at the bigger picture. You'll have a much better perspective.

James 1: 2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.