

Facing Life Without Fear ~ Because We See the Value of Suffering



1 Peter 1:6-9

March 9, 2025

Introduction: "Is the reward worth the struggle?"

I. The Encouragement in Suffering, v.6.

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

A. Suffering comes before joy. *"In all this you greatly rejoice, though now..."*

³Praise 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,

⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,

Romans 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

B. Suffering will be brief. *"a little while"*

C. Suffering does not come needlessly. *"you may have had to suffer"*

D. Suffering comes in many ways. *"suffer grief in all kinds of trials"*

E. Application: Be encouraged in the midst of suffering, when we're experiencing the various trials of life, because they give us the opportunity to let others see Jesus in us!

II. The Purpose of Suffering, v.7.

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

A. Our faith will be proven genuine.

1. Gold is of great value.

2. While gold is of great value, our faith is of greater worth than gold.

3. Our faith is proven genuine through suffering.

B. Our faith will be rewarded at the return of Christ.

Matt. 25:21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

C. Application: Whatever you are facing in life today, stay faithful to the Lord.

1. What battle am I going through?

2. How is my faith strengthened?

3. The testing of genuine faith does not come when life is easy!

III. The Foundation for Suffering, v.8-9.

A. Our relationship with Christ, v.8.

⁴ 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,

1. It is not based on sight.

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ^² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ^³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard ...

John 20:29 Then Jesus told him (Thomas), “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

2. It is based on love.

1 John 4:11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.

John 13:34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ^⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

3. It is based on faith.

⁴ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him ...

B. Our unique joy in Christ, v.8.

⁴ 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,

1. It is inexpressible.

2. It is full of glory.

C. Our complete salvation, v.9.

⁴ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

D. Application: Do you have the needed foundation so you can stand firm in these difficult days?

“If You Could Ask God One Question,” by Barry Cooper and Paul Williams

Conclusion: Is the reward worth the struggle?