



The Epistles of Peter  
1 Peter 1:6-9  
From Sermon 9.28.25

Read 1 Peter 1:6-9

Overview from Sunday's sermon: With the preliminaries of his letter out of the way, the Apostle now gets to the focus of these blessed letters—namely, encouraging struggling believers in a hostile world. The Scripture NEVER states that God's children will be free from trials, tribulations, and troubles. In fact, it guarantees them. What the Holy Spirit does is have Peter show the church that trials have a purpose, regardless of their source. We get to choose how we respond in them: becoming bitter or becoming better.

1. From Sunday: For most people, what two words do they see as identical in definition/as synonyms? Happiness and Joy.

1a. Because of that flawed understanding, what dictates their joy in life? Their circumstances, trials, tribulations, pains, others, events of the world, finances, health, setbacks...

2. Read the following support Scriptures: *James 1:2-3 & Romans 5:3*. Discuss the vast difference between happiness and joy and the radical, counter-cultural biblical take on trials in this life. Happiness is circumstantial. Like all emotions, it comes and goes—ebbs and flows. Everyone goes through seasons of being unhappy. That is not (necessarily) a sin. Joy, on the other hand, is a choice. It's based on foundational truth, not circumstances. We can still have joy even in the midst of suffering and trials.

3. What are some of the major causes of trials in our life as believers? My sinful choices, living in a fallen, cursed world, the enemy's attack, God's wrath, & loving discipline.

3a. Despite the cause of my trial, what can each and every trial accomplish? Test my faith. Make me stronger. Review "gauges" from a couple of weeks ago.

4. Why would God want to test our faith? 1) to give us an accurate reading. 2) to cause us to rely more on Him (See 2 Corinthians 12:7-10). 3) To grow and strengthen my faith (perseverance).

4a. How does God test our faith? Through trials and tribulations

5. Discuss the comparison of refining gold to the refining of our faith. To purify gold, it must first be put under extreme heat until it reaches the melting point. The impurities will rise to the surface. The smith then skims the top off to remove the impurities. The process is repeated. The gold is then formed in a mold and hammered repeatedly to harden. This is also repeated. It is then sanded down and polished.

6. From our teaching points on Sunday, what were the five reasons given to rejoice even in tribulations?

- That blessed inheritance that awaits us
- A realistic evaluation of our faith
- God's commendation one day [they don't pin Medal of Honors on everyone]
- This profound, spiritual relationship with Christ who suffered before and for me
- God's presence and strength as I go through the fire