

Great Joy Through Tested Faith

1 Peter 1:6-12

Today's text is **1 Peter 1:6-12**. Here we will see in

- **V-1:6-7** – Great Joy through Tested Faith
- **V 1:8-9** – Great Joy in Loving Christ
- **V 1:10-12** – Old Testament Promised Christ by the Spirit

Now the **main idea** of today's text is that **Christians have great joy in our salvation and in loving Christ, who was promised in the Old Testament, even though our faith is tested by distressing trials**. We must stay focused on this glorious joy to continue in love for Christ and to strengthen our faith which is more precious than gold, and thus endure our suffering and trials with joy. God will make good on His promises soon, and our salvation will have its final wonderful outcome.

Thomas Watson comments, *“Learn quietly to submit to divine providence. Do not murmur at things that are ordered by divine wisdom.... Let us be content that God should rule the world; learn to acquiesce in his will, and submit to his providence. Does any affliction befall you? Remember God sees it is that which is fit for you, or it would not come. Your clothes cannot be so fit for you as your crosses. God's providence may sometimes be secret, but it is always wise.”*

Psalm 23:4-6 - 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. 5 Thou dost prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; Thou hast anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. 6 **Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,** And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. NASB

James 1:2-4 - 2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, **when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.** 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. NASB

Romans 8:16-18 - 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him. 18 For I consider that **the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.** NASB

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 - 16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. 17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for

the things which are seen are temporal, but **the things which are not seen are eternal**. NASB

Joseph Hart.... *“Come, ye sinners, poor and needy, Weak and wounded, sick and sore, Jesus ready, stands to save you, Full of pity, love and power! I will arise and go to Jesus, He will embrace me in His arms, In the arms of my dear Savior, Oh, there are ten thousand charms!”*

Charles Wesley.... *“And can it be that I should gain, An int’rest in the Savior’s blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain—For me, who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be, That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?”*

Although we can only see Christ through **spiritual eyes**, in faith believing we are nearly **blinded** at times by the **splendor** of the **sight** of **Him** and **His glory**. Yes, this is what Peter is describing, **“8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.”** And this is why our faith needs a regular **fresh vision** of **Jesus** and His Work through the **Word preached**, to **reinvigorate** the **value** and **transcendence** of our **spiritual life** with the nourishment of the **Bread of Life**, the heavenly **Manna** for our souls and delight of our **hearts**... even Jesus Himself!

Ephesians 3:8-11 - 8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to **preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ**, 9 and to bring to light what is **the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God**, who created all things; 10 **in order that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places**. 11 This was in **accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus** our Lord, NASB

Conclusion - Now in conclusion consider that the **powers** of the **age to come** have ALREADY arrived for us in Christ, who are **waiting as aliens** in strange land for them to their final climax, in that **NOT YET** world of **future glory**. In the midst of it all, we **“greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary,”** we **“have been distressed by various trials.”** Yes, we have **great joy** even in the midst of the distressing **trials** of life. But as **wandering pilgrims** in **hot desert** who seem to find a **daily oasis** of green grass and **cool water** always at our **disposal** from our Shepherd, we have **great Joy** in **loving Christ**, the object of all our hopes and dreams of a beautiful better life. To that land of **future glory** with the abundant fruit of Canaan’s shores, we look for that **Promised Land** to which our Savior speedily takes us. This is the promise of the awesome God who loved us and saved us by the **Life** and the **death** of His Son. As surely as He promised Christ would come by the mouth of the prophets, shall He bring us to that **“salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”**