

Joy in Adversity

November 15, 2020



Open: What's something difficult that you faced this past week?

Read & Discuss: 1 Peter 1:3-7

1. In verse 4, Peter describes the believer's inheritance. How would you put this verse into your own words? What other words come to mind when you think about the future blessing of those God saves? How would understanding these promises be helpful to a new believer?
2. Not only do believers have an inheritance kept for them, they themselves are being "guarded through faith" by the power of God (v. 5). As you read verse 3, where else do you see the power of God reflected? When are you most aware of God's power in your life?
3. Peter knows that in spite of the great blessing awaiting believers, trials will come into our lives. What are some examples of the kind of trials we could encounter? How is a believer at risk by not anticipating this?
4. Verse 7 indicates that trials test our faith. What are some ways our faith is tested by our trials? How have you experienced such testing? Who benefits from the revealed genuineness of our faith that results from these trials?
5. Identify the phrases in this passage encouraging believers to have a future-looking perspective. What would help you to have a stronger focus on God's promises for those who are suffering? How will a proper response to suffering now result in praise at the revelation of Jesus Christ?
6. Suppose someone says to you, "Being a Christian is too difficult and painful." How would you respond in a way that helps them to understand their suffering from a proper perspective?

Apply: What can you do to be better prepared to meet adversity with the perspective presented here?

Pray: Ask God to help us remember God's promises to those who suffer and God's purpose for us in suffering so that we might go through trials in ways that honor God and bring us joy.

This Week: To help you prepare to disciple someone, spend some time this week filling in the answers for Chapter 4 (pages 15-18) of *Christian Living for Starters*. Then memorize 1 Peter 1:6-7.

1 Peter 1:3-7

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

According to his great mercy,

he has caused us to be born again to a living hope

through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ to an inheritance that is

imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a

salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ In this you rejoice,

though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,

⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith

—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire

—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation
of Jesus Christ. (ESV)