

Introduction

A few weeks ago I met with Pastor Wilson Mvinya, who lives in Lilongwe, Malawi. He pastors the Trinity Church International and works with a ministry called ROAR. ROAR trains leaders and plants churches, primarily with the unchurched regions of the world, known as the 10-40 window. Wilson is over the training and church planting in Malawi and Mozambique. He will be helping us provide Bibles to Pastor Patrick Betchani, and the Maranatha Fellowship. If you want to help with providing their church with Bibles, you can give online at our website, and tag the offering for Malawi. I have been meeting weekly with Patrick and his leadership team, training and mentoring them. When I met with Pastor Wilson, I immediately noticed his joy. His countenance radiated joy, and I was immediately drawn to him. His joy was contagious and attractive. During my weekly meetings with Patrick and his team, they are frequently without electricity. Their electric grid is not stable and they frequently have outages, but their countenances radiate joy. Last week, they could hear my voice preaching to them, but they were in the dark. A few weeks ago, our meeting was delayed because Patrick was returning from visiting his brother in the hospital. Patrick recently had to be treated for malaria. They sleep with netting over them because of the mosquito problem. A few weeks ago, he asked me to pray for their government, that they would begin to focus on the needs of the people. With crime, poverty, disease, and the many other problems they face daily, it would seem improbably for them to be filled with joy. But, Wilson and Patrick are both filled with joy. In the midst of their daily trials and tribulations, they exude and manifest joy to everyone around them.

We just began a series on 1 Peter. These believers that he wrote to were scattered throughout Europe and Asia, and were living as aliens. They had fled their homeland because of the persecution that occurred after the stoning of Stephen. In Acts 8:1, Luke recorded that Saul was in hearty agreement with putting Stephen to death and there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered. It was a great persecution, and in Acts 8:3 he described Saul as ravaging the church, entering houses, dragging off men and women and committing them to prison.

(Ac 8:1–3) “Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles... But Saul *began* ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.”

In Acts 26, in Paul’s defense before King Agrippa, he said, “I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.” He locked up many of the saints in prison, and when they were being put to death, he cast his vote against them. He punished them often, and was furiously enraged at them, and pursued them to foreign cities. Peter’s audience are these believers who have fled the persecution. They have left homes, possessions, relatives, businesses, and everything, and are living as aliens. We do not know how many were martyred; we only know that the persecution was great, severe, and ravaging.

(Ac 26:9–11) “So then, I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. {10} And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them. {11} And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities.”

That is the setting and context of the letter, and in our text today, Peter wrote that they greatly rejoice, even though they are being distressed by various trials. A few verses later he wrote that they greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory. Just like Pastor Patrick and Pastor Wilson, they greatly rejoice in the midst of trials and difficult circumstances.

Our passage today is 1 Peter 1:3-9, and I have titled it four reasons to rejoice in God. The first reason is that God had caused them to be born again. Second, God has reserved an inheritance for them. Third, God has protected them by His power. Fourth, the proving of their faith through trials would result in praise, glory, and honor.

Four Reasons Why We Should Rejoice in God for Our Salvation?

1. He has caused us to be born again (to a living hope, through the resurrection of Jesus)
2. He has reserved an inheritance for us (imperishable, undefiled, will not fade away)
3. He has protected us by His power (through faith)
4. The proving of our faith through trials will result in praise, glory and honor

(1 Pe 1:3-9) “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, {4} to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, {5} who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. {6} In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, {7} so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; {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, {9} obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.”

1. **He has caused us to be born again** (to a living hope, through the resurrection of Jesus)

Peter begins by blessing the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. What does he bless God for? He blessed God for causing us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. We should all bless God for our salvation. It was by His mercy and grace that we are saved.

(1 Pe 1:3) “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”

Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:8-9 that it is by grace that we have been saved through faith, and not of ourselves. Our salvation is a gift of God, not as a result of our works, lest anyone should boast. It was according to His mercy. God was motivated by love and mercy that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins, and to be raised up again. It was His plan to redeem us from our sins.

(Eph 2:8–9) “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; {9} not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

There are basically two camps or views on what Peter meant when He said that God caused us to be born again. Those that believe that God chooses who will be saved and who will be sent to

hell, use this verse to support their view of predestination of individuals. The other camp believes that God does not want any to perish and for all to come to repentance. They believe that God desires all men to be saved. His predetermined plan was to send His Son to make atonement for the sins, and whoever receives His Son will be saved. Whoever is in Christ is chosen. Whoever believes and receives Christ is adopted by the Father and is chosen.

(2 Pe 3:9) “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”

(1 Ti 2:3–4) “This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, {4} who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

John Wesley was an Anglican cleric, theologian, and evangelist who co-founded Methodism with his brother, Charles. He was born in 1703 in England, and died in 1791. His mother, Susanna Wesley, brought he and Charles up in strict religious upbringing and laid a strong theological foundation in their lives. John's theology emphasized salvation by faith, the witness of the Spirit, and sanctification. He was a prolific writer, producing sermons, theological treatises, and hymns that enriched Christian literature and music. John was also an advocate for social issues, including prison reform, the abolition of slavery, and the establishment of lending societies for the poor, demonstrated his belief in the practical application of Christian principles to societal problems.

John was in the second camp, that believed that God’s salvation was available to all men, and that God did not want any to perish, but for to come to repentance and be saved. I would also be in that camp. This is what John had to say about election.

“Election, in the scripture sense, is God’s doing anything that our merit or power have no part in. The true predestination, or fore-appointment of God is:

1. He that believeth shall be saved from the guilt and power of sin
2. He that endureth to the end shall be saved eternally
3. They who receive the precious gift of faith, thereby become the sons of God; and, being sons, they shall receive the Spirit of holiness to walk as Christ also walked.

Throughout every part of this appointment of God, promise and duty go hand in hand. All is free gift; and yet such is the gift, that the final issue depends on our future obedience to the heavenly call.

But other predestination than this, either to life or death eternal, the scripture knows not of. Moreover, it is:

1. Cruel respect of persons; an unjust regard of one, and an unjust disregard of another. It is mere creature partiality, and not infinite justice
2. It is not plain scripture doctrine, if true; but rather, inconsistent with the express written word, that speaks of God’s universal offers of grace; his invitations, promises, threatenings, being all general
3. We are bid to choose life, and reprehended for not doing it
4. It is inconsistent with a state of probation in those that must be saved or must be lost
5. It is of fatal consequence; all men being ready, on very slight grounds, to fancy themselves of the elect number.

But the doctrine of predestination is entirely changed from what it formerly was. Now it implies neither faith, peace, nor purity. It is something that will do without them all. Faith is no longer, according to the modern predestinarian scheme, a divine "evidence of things not seen," wrought in the soul by the immediate power of the Holy Ghost; not an evidence at all; but a mere notion. Neither is faith made any longer a means of holiness; but something that will do without it. Christ is no more a Saviour from sin; but a defence, a countenancer of it. He is no more a fountain of spiritual life in the soul of believers, but leaves his elect inwardly dry, and outwardly unfruitful; and is made little more than a refuge from the image of the heavenly; even from righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

I want to look at the verse again, using the King James Version. Notice that it does not say that God caused us to be born again. It reads that according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again into a lively hope. The Greek word used is anagennao (Strong's Greek #313), which means to be born again. We are born again because of God's abundant mercy. It is by His grace that we are saved. God, according to His abundant mercy, sent His Son to die for our sins, and to be raised from the dead so that we could be saved.

(1 Pe 1:3 KJV) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"

Believers have been begotten or born again. If you recall Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus, he told him that unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. When a man believes and receives Christ, he is born again. He is born of the Spirit. In the natural, we are born of the flesh. When we receive Christ, we are born of the Spirit.

(Jn 3:3) "Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Believers are born again into a lively hope. Believers have hope. In Ephesians 2, Paul was addressing the Gentiles and said that they were separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus, those who were formerly far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. All of us were in sin. We were born in sin, and because of our sin, we were separated from God. We were destined for wrath, and without hope. But because Jesus died for our sins and was raised from the dead, when we receive Christ, we are brought near to God by the blood of Christ. Since Jesus was raised from the dead, we will also be raised from the dead, and we will spend eternity fellowshiping with God. We are now full of hope.

(Eph 2:12-13) "remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. {13} But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

Before moving on, I want to glean something else from our text. In Acts 4:13, the Sanhedrin Council understood that Peter and John were uneducated and untrained men, but were amazed at their confidence. They recognized that they had been with Jesus. The apostle Peter may have been a fisherman, but He had been mentored by Jesus, and he was not ignorant of Biblical issues. In verse two, Peter wrote about the trinity. He mentions God the Father, the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ. He mentions the foreknowledge of God. He spoke about the

sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. He talked about the forgiveness and cleansing that we have through the blood of Christ. He spoke about the mercy of God, and the hope that we have in Christ. These are weighty issues that Peter has addressed in just the first few verses.

(Ac 4:13) “Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and *began* to recognize them as having been with Jesus.”

2. He has reserved an inheritance for us

The second reason that believers have is that God has reserved an inheritance for them. Peter wrote, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,” Peter gives four characteristics of this inheritance.

(1 Pe 1:3–4) “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, {4} to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,”

A. **Imperishable** (not temporal, will not spoil or go bad)

The first characteristic is that our inheritance is imperishable. The Greek word is *aphthartos*, which means incorruptible or imperishable. Our inheritance does not have a date stamp on it like the food that we buy in the grocery store. It is not temporal; it will not spoil, or go bad.

When my father lived in New Mexico, he had a peach tree, and it had the largest, tastiest peaches that I have ever eaten. It also had so many peaches that they could not possibly eat them all. One year they carefully wrapped peaches and sent a box to us in Georgia. Unfortunately, those peaches are very perishable, and they were all spoiled when they arrived at our house. My mother and father had the best of intentions, but the gift was perishable, and it spoiled. Our inheritance is not perishable or corruptible.

B. **Undefiled** (pure)

The second characteristic of our inheritance is that it is undefiled. In other words, it is pure. The Greek word is *amiantos*, which means undefiled. When we studied what it means to love from a good conscience, we saw that our consciences could be seared and they could be defiled. There were two Greek words for defiled. The first was *molyno*, which means soiled. The second word was *miaino*, which means contaminated, polluted, tainted, or defiled. The word used here comes from this second word. The prefix, *a-*, is a negative prefix, so our inheritance cannot be defiled, contaminated, or tainted. It will always be pure.

C. **Will not fade away** (grow old, lose value or appearance, become less visible)

The third characteristic of our inheritance is that it will not fade away. On April 26, 2026, Professor Garrick Allen, from the University of Glasgow, successfully recovered forty-two pages from one of the world’s most important early New Testament manuscripts: Codex H. The manuscript is a 6th century copy of the letters of the Apostle Paul. The images had become so

faded that they could not be read by the naked eye. Professor Allen and the Early Manuscripts Electronic Library (EMEL) used multispectral imaging to process images of the extant pages, in order to recover “ghost” text that no longer physically exists, effectively retrieving multiple pages of information from every single physical page.”¹

Our inheritance is not like that ancient manuscript; it will never fade away or become unreadable by the naked eye. Our inheritance is not like a favorite piece of clothing that becomes faded by being worn in the sun and being washed. Our inheritance will always look new and fresh. Our inheritance will never lose value because of fading away because of age or use.

D. Reserved in heaven for us (can only be received and used by us)

The fourth characteristic of our inheritance is that it is reserved in heaven for us. Our inheritance is assigned to each one of us, with our name on it. No one else can claim our inheritance. No one else can use our inheritance. It is reserved for us.

(1 Pe 1:4) “to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,”

One year my family and I pulled into a nice hotel in Odessa, TX, and when I went in to check in, they said that I did not have a reservation. I pulled out my itinerary, and I showed them the reservation number that was given to me for those dates. They said, “We’re sorry for the mix-up. However, we are full, and we do not have a reservation for you, so you will have to find other accommodations.” I was not too happy about that. I always worked hard in the off-season to make hotel reservations in every city that we would be traveling to. Once the PGA Tour season began, I focused on my golf, not travel reservations. Our reservation in heaven is not like that hotel that lost my reservation. Paul wrote in Ephesians 1 that when we become a believer, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance.

(Eph 1:13–14) “In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, {14} who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God’s own* possession, to the praise of His glory.”

Another year, I had a reservation at the Best Western in Cheyenne, WY. We drove from Portland, OR to Cheyenne and pulled in at ten o’clock at night. We had been on the road eighteen hours and we were ready for a good night’s sleep. It was snowing and there were several inches of snow on the ground. When I went to check in, they asked me how many children I had, and when I replied that I had eight children, I was informed that there was a limit of two children. Even though I had a reservation for two double rooms, they did not honor my reservation. They told me there was a Days Inn down the road, so we stayed the night in the Days Inn. Our reservation in heaven is not like that. In Psalms 47:4, we find that God chooses our inheritance for us. He knows our needs, and He has the perfect inheritance for us. He reserves it for us, and when we arrive, He will welcome us to our special inheritance which has been chosen for us.

(Ps 47:4) “He chooses our inheritance for us, The glory of Jacob whom He loves. Selah.”

¹ https://www.gla.ac.uk/news/headline_1263245_en.html

One of the biggest sources of conflict in families is the inheritance that people get or don't get. In Trust and Will, the following statistics were reported.²

- 41% of Americans said money, an inheritance, or an estate had affected a relationship within the family. 17% of Americans said money, inheritance, or an estate had permanently damaged a family relationship.
- 28% said that their parents' inheritance had caused family conflict.
- 38% said their estate plans reported experiencing disagreements. Asset distribution was the most frequently reported source of conflict.

We also find an example in Scripture where there was a quarrel over the inheritance. In Luke 12:13, a man said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." Jesus did not intervene, and warned him to be on guard against every form of greed.

(Lk 12:13–15) "Someone in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." {14} But He said to him, "Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?" {15} Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

In the Old Testament, all of the tribes in Israel, except for the Levites, were given an inheritance. That inheritance was very specific, and the boundaries were defined. In Joshua 13, when the tribes were being given their inheritances, Moses did not give one to the tribe of Levi because the Lord God of Israel, is their inheritance. God was their inheritance. God is imperishable. God is undefiled. God is unfading. And our place with God is reserved for us. We are a spiritual priesthood, and God is our inheritance. We often think about the mansion up in the sky that we will have, and there may be one. Jesus said in His Father's house, there are many dwelling places. But God is our inheritance.

(Jos 13:33) "But to the tribe of Levi, Moses did not give an inheritance; the LORD, the God of Israel, is their inheritance, as He had promised to them."

(1 Pe 2:5) "you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

3. He has protected us by His power (through faith)

We are to rejoice in God for our salvation. The trials on earth are momentary, but our salvation is eternal, and we should rejoice over it. The second reason to rejoice in God is for our inheritance that has been reserved for us. It is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. The third reason to rejoice in God in our trials is we are protected by His power. It is great to know that God protects us. He who is in us is greater than He who is in the world, and He will protect us by His power.

(1 Pe 1:5-6) "who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. {6} In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,"

² <https://trustandwill.com/learn/2025-report-who-do-americans-trust>

It is great to know that when facing temptations, that He will not allow them to overtake us, but will provide a way of escape.

(1 Co 10:13) “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”

It is good to know that in this spiritual battle that we are in, He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world. It is reassuring that that the Lord is faithful and will strengthen and protect us from the evil one. It is good to know that the enemy cannot snatch us from His hands.

(1 Jn 4:4) “You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.”

(2 Th 3:3) “But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.”

(Jn 10:28–29) “and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. {29} My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”

I love Psalm 121, where we find that God is our Keeper. It begins with lifting our eyes up to the mountains, where our help comes. Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Listen to how He protects us. He does not allow our foot to slip. He does not slumber or sleep, so the enemy cannot sneak up on us, because He is always looking out for us. He will not allow the sun to smite us, or the moon by night. He protects us from all evil. He keeps our soul. He guards our going out and our coming in. Those are wonderful promises of His protection for us.

(Ps 121:1–8) “I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From where shall my help come? {2} My help *comes* from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. {3} He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber. {4} Behold, He who keeps Israel Will neither slumber nor sleep. {5} The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade on your right hand. {6} The sun will not smite you by day, Nor the moon by night. {7} The LORD will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul. {8} The LORD will guard your going out and your coming in From this time forth and forever.”

Peter wrote that we are protected by the power of God through faith. Our faith plays a role in our protection. God promises to protect us, but He also gives us some responsibilities, and some things to do.

(1 Pe 1:5) “who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

In Ephesians 6:10-17, Paul wrote about the full armor of God. In times of trouble, we must be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. We are to put on the full armor of God, so that we can stand firm against the schemes of the devil. Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, we must take up the full armor of God. We have to put on spiritual armor because we are in spiritual battles. We have to gird our loins with truth, put on the breastplate of righteousness, shod our feet with the preparation of

the gospel, and take up the shield of faith. We are protected by the power of God through faith, and we have the responsibility of taking up the shield of faith so we can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. We are also to take up the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Finally, we are to pray at all times in the Spirit and to be alert. We are protected by the power of God through faith, but we have to do our part.

(Eph 6:10–18) “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. {11} Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. {12} For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. {13} Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. {14} Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, {15} and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; {16} in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. {17} And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. {18} With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,”

Later in this letter Peter expounds on this a little more. He wrote that the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. He tells us to be sober, to be on the alert, and to resist him, firm in our faith. God promises to protect, but He has given us some responsibilities.

(1 Pe 5:8–9) “Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. {9} But resist him, firm in *your* faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.”

We are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. There is a saying about the kingdom of God that it is now and not yet. That means that we see some things of the kingdom now, but not everything. We see some healed, but not everyone, but when the kingdom of God comes in fullness, there will be no sickness, disease, or sin. Our salvation is similar. We have been saved from our sins, and have been born of the Spirit. We are new creations and the old things are passing away and new things have come. But Peter writes, “for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” There are aspects of our salvation that have not been revealed yet.

(1 Pe 1:5) “who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Then, Peter wrote, “in this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials.” We greatly rejoice in our salvation, our inheritance that is reserved for us, and for the protection that God gives. No matter what kind of trial or distress we are experiencing, we can rejoice in those things. God tells us in Hebrews that Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, for the joy set before Him endured the cross. He is a great example to fix our eyes on when we are going through these trials so we can also greatly rejoice.

(1 Pe 1:6) “In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,”

(Heb 12:2) “fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

4. The proving of our faith through trials will result in praise, glory and honor

The fourth reason for rejoicing in God is that the proving of our faith through trials will result in praise, glory, and honor. We saw that Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before Him. Similarly, the results of our suffering have positive results. When we overcome and endure the trials, it is God who will praise us. When our faith is proven through trials, God will glorify and honor us. Our faith is precious to God, and the proving of our faith brings glory and honor to Him and to us.

(1 Pe 1:6–7) “In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, {7} so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;”

James wrote something very similar. He exhorted us to consider it all joy when we experience trials, knowing that the testing of our faith produces endurance. And endurance was to have its perfect result, that we would be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. In all three of these verses, Hebrews 12:2, James 1:2-4, and 1 Peter 1:6-7, we find that we are to rejoice in the midst of trials because of the positive results that are derived from our suffering.

(Jas 1:2–4) “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, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

As a professional athlete for many years, I trained hard. I ran, lifted weights, jump-roped, did push-ups, and many other exercises. While I enjoyed running, most of the exercises that I did were not for pleasure. I exercised for the benefits that I derived from doing them. I became stronger and had more endurance. When I was younger golfers were not encouraged to lift weights. However, that changed in the eighties, when trainers began to emphasize weight training for golfers. I was thirty-six when I started lifting weights, and I gained thirty-five yards of distance off the tee the first year. I was stronger and generated more clubhead speed. Was it worth all the hours in the gym? Absolutely. We endure temporary suffering for the benefits that we obtain. We rejoice in our trials because the testing and proving of our faith will result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Not all of our rewards will come in this life. They will come; God always fulfills His promises, but not always in this life. At the revelation of Jesus Christ, we will be rewarded for our faith, and it will result in praise, glory, and honor.

Next Peter gives faith in action. He wrote, “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, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

(1 Pe 1:8-9) “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, {9} obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.”

In Hebrews 11, God tells us that faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Peter stated that these believers have an assurance for things they do not see. They have a love for God, although they do not see Him now. They not only believe and have assurance, they love Him and greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.

(Heb 11:1–2) “Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. {2} For by it the men of old gained approval.”

God tells us in Hebrews that by this faith the men of old gained approval. Notice how Peter ties this into his encouragement to the suffering saints. He wrote, “obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.” Peter may have been a fisherman in his younger years, but he is now a very knowledgeable and mature man of God, who knows his theology and doctrine, and how to encourage these saints who are scattered throughout Asia and Europe, who are suffering and being persecuted.

(1 Pe 1:9) “obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.”

Conclusion and Applications

The church was suffering severe persecution and scattered throughout Asia and Europe, and they are now living as aliens. Peter writes to encourage them to stand firm in the grace of God in the midst of their suffering. After a brief introduction and greeting, Peter begins by giving them four reasons to rejoice in God. In the midst of their trials, they can rejoice that they have been born again. They can rejoice in their salvation and that they have a living hope. Our salvation is something that all of us should regularly give thanks to God and to rejoice in.

The second reason that Peter gave them for rejoicing in God was that God has reserved an inheritance for them. Their inheritance has their name on it, and won’t be given to others; it is reserved for them. Their inheritance is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away. It will never lose value, or be ruined. Sometimes we focus on the things in this temporal world we live in, but we should take time to rejoice in the incredible inheritance that God has for us in our eternal home.

Third, these believers who were suffering could rejoice that they are protected by God’s power through faith. God’s power is unlimited, and He promises to use His power to protect us. We also have some responsibilities. We must call upon Him. We must exercise our faith. We must put on the full armor of God. We must stand firm and resist the enemy.

Fourth, we should rejoice in the midst of our trials, knowing that these trials prove our faith. The end result will be praise, glory, and honor.

There may be someone listening today that is not born again. You have heard the term, but you have never received Christ into your life and been born again. If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and that He came and died for your sins, and was raised from the dead, you simply need to receive Jesus into your life and confess Him as your Lord. Simply pray something like this:

Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God, and that You came and died for our sins. I believe that You were raised from the dead on the third day. I ask You to come into my life and to forgive me of my sins. I choose today to follow and obey You, and I confess You as Lord of my life. I pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

There may be some today that are in a trial and under a lot of stress. You need God's protection, care, strength, and wisdom. I want to pray for you right now.

Closing Prayer

Father God, thank You for Your promises. Thank You for being our Keeper, our Shepherd, and our Protector. Thank You for the true grace, the grace to go through the trials and difficulties in our lives. Thank You for perseverance and endurance. I pray this morning that You will pour out Your grace in the lives. I pray for Your protection over these believers. I pray that You will not only protect them, but You will encourage them and be the lifter of their heads. I pray that You will fill them with hope and joy. I also pray that they will learn to put on their spiritual armor, and to stand firm in Your grace, strength, and faith. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Discussion Questions

- What stood out to you in the message today? Was there a personal application for you? Was there an encouragement or truth that you identified with?
- In the midst of trials and suffering, what are a few things that the Scriptures encourage us to focus on? (Ro 5:3-5, Jas 1:2-5, He 12:1-2, 1 Pe 5:10)
- Give an example of a trial that you endured, and how you handled it?
- How does being part of a church family, a community, a fellowship, help in persevering through trials? (Ec 4:9-12, He 3:12-13, Ga 6:2)
- How do we recognize God's true grace in our trials?
- What are some promises in God's Word to cling to in the midst of suffering?
- What is your understanding and expectation of the inheritance that you will receive from the Lord?
- What are some things that Peter tells us to rejoice about when suffering?
- How did Peter and John respond to the suffering they experienced in Acts 5:40-42?
- How do trials test our faith?

Four Reasons to Rejoice in God for Our Salvation (1Pe 1:3-9)

Introduction (Ac 8:1–3, 26:9-11, 1 Pe 1:3-9)

1. **He has caused us to be born again** (1 Pe 1:3, Eph 2:8-9, 2 Pe 3:9, 1 Ti 2:3-4, Jn 3:3, Eph 2:12-13, Ac 4:13)
2. **He has reserved an inheritance for us** (1 Pe 1:3–4, Lk 12:13–15, Jos 13:33, 1 Pe 2:5)
 - A. Imperishable (incorruptible)
 - B. Undefined (pure)
 - C. Will not fade away
 - D. Reserved in heaven for us (1 Pe 1:4, Eph 1:13–14, Ps 47:4)
3. **He has protected us by His power** (1 Pe 1:5-6, 1 Co 10:13, 1 Jn 4:4, 2 Th 3:3, Jn 10:28-29, Ps 121:1-8, 1 Pe 1:5, Eph 6:10-18, 1 Pe 5:8–9, 1:5-6, He 12:2)
4. **The proving of our faith through trials will result in praise, glory and honor** (1 Pe 1:6–9, Jas 1:2-4, He 12:2, 11:1-2)

Conclusion and Applications