

I Peter 1:6-7

Rejoicing During The Trial Of Their Faith

I. Introduction: How challenging is it to count it all joy when your faith is being tested?

A. No one should want to enter into temptation (**Matthew 6:13** and **Mark 14:38**).

1. Such is a time when those who have not been rooted can fall away (**Luke 8:13**).

2. Times of temptation are emotional (**Acts 20:19**).

B. Yet, the temptations that Christians face are not uncommon nor are they inescapable (**I Corinthians 10:13** and **I Peter 4:12**).

1. Our Lord and Savior faced forty days of temptation by Satan (**Mark 1:12-13**) among other temptations, trials, sufferings in the flesh, etc. (**Matthew 16:21**, **Mark 10:2**, **Luke 11:16**, **Luke 18:32**, etc.).

2. So, we can rest assured knowing that our judge (**II Corinthians 5:10**) understands what being tested is like (**Hebrews 2:16-18** and **Hebrews 4:14-5:10**).

II. Body: *“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ” (I Peter 1:6-7).*

A. Greatly rejoicing (**Luke 6:20-23**).

1. In a forward looking manner (**Matthew 5:10-12**, **Luke 10:20**, **Romans 12:12**, and **I Peter 4:13**).

2. Rejoicing in the Lord (**Philippians 4:4**), even if in heaviness.

3. Yes, even in heaviness. God’s people can have various emotions for various reasons (**Ecclesiastes 7:1-6**, **Mark 3:1-6**, **Luke 19:41-44**, **Romans 9:1-3**, **I Corinthians 12:25-26**, **II Corinthians 7:1-6**, and **II Timothy 1:4**).

4. Jesus was sorrowful when facing what was in front of Him (**Matthew 26:37**). He did not err (**I John 3:5**).

B. If it was necessary, this would be for a season. Focus on the temporary nature of suffering through things in this world even when facing various temptations (**II Corinthians 4:8-18**).

1. Facing afflictions is not an indicator of unfaithfulness (**Psalms 34:19**).

2. Consider the forewarning of Christ to the Apostles (**John 16:33**) and what Paul later wrote about such though he was teaching a different lesson in the context (**I Corinthians 4:8-13**).

3. Some Christians in the first century faced much tribulation (**Acts 14:22**).

4. The fact is, the Scriptures have plenty of examples of those whose faith endured (**Hebrews 11:32-12:3**).

5. The focus has to remain on the finish line rather than what one is suffering through at the moment (**Hebrews 3:14** and **James 1:12**).

C. The trial of faith (**James 1:2-3**).

1. Imagine the concern Apostles had for those they were teaching as we think about Peter's role through Paul's writings (**I Thessalonians 3:1-5**).
2. Good comes from being tested (**Romans 5:1-4**).
3. So, rather than caving and falling it is important to think of trials as short term challenges with an eternal reward (**Revelation 2:8-11**).

D. So, why is tested, proven faith so valuable (**I Peter 1:9**; cf. **II Thessalonians 1:1-5**)?

1. What is the payoff of material wealth (**Psalms 49:6-13, Proverbs 11:4, Proverbs 23:4-5, Proverbs 27:24, Luke 12:13-21, and I Timothy 6:6-10**)?

- a. So, why do people focus so much on material gains than their soul (**Mark 8:36-37**)?
 - b. Likewise, why do people focus so much more on their physical well-being than on their spiritual well-being (**I Timothy 4:8-10**)?
 - c. Why are people so embattled in affairs of this life rather than the fight of faith (**I Timothy 6:12 and II Timothy 2:3-4**)?
2. What will happen to this world and all therein (**I John 2:15-17**)?
3. What will happen to genuine faith in the end (**I John 5:4**)?
4. While no one should want to be tested per se, we also have to consider that untested faith doesn't carry much value. After all, salvation [in part] comes through endurance (**Matthew 10:22, Luke 8:15, II Timothy 2:12, and James 5:10-11**).

E. How one's faith must be found when Christ returns (**Romans 2:6-7**)?

1. When Jesus comes, what will you be doing (**Mark 13:32-37**)?
2. Will He be glorified in you (**II Thessalonians 1:10-12**)?
3. Will you be glorified with Him (**Romans 8:17-18**)?

III. Conclusion: Our next study: *"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls"* (**I Peter 1:8-9**).