**1 Peter: Joy in Spite of Suffering, Pt 2**

*1 Peter 1:8-9*

**Context**

***1 Peter 1:6-9****—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.*

When the believer truly understands the glorious work that Christ has afforded them in salvation, there naturally is an overwhelming sense of unadulterated joy. One sees that throughout the scriptures, especially in the Psalms.

**Ps 9:14***—That I may tell of all Your praises, That in the gates of the daughter of Zion I may rejoice in Your salvation.*

**Ps 4:7***—You have put gladness in my heart, More than when their grain and new wine abound.*

**Ps 9:2***—I will be glad and exult in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.*

**Ps 32:11***—Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous ones;  
And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.*

**Ps 43:3-4***—O send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me; Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your dwelling places.****4****Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy; And upon the lyre I shall praise You, O God, my God.*

This theme of joy is the emphasis for Peter in these verses.

***1:6***—*In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials*

**1:8***—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*

The reality of our lives can sometimes be lackluster when it comes to being joyful. Fartoo often, we allow the circumstances of our lives to dictate our joy rather than coming back to understanding who we are in Christ and our future inheritance.

**Features of the Believer’s Joy**

1. **Comes because of our inheritance**

**1 Peter 1:6a***—In this you greatly rejoice…*

1. **Proves our faith**

**1 Peter 1:6b-7a***—… 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*

1. **Resulting in praise and glory and honor**

**1 Peter 1:7b***—…may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ*

“When one day we stand before the Savior, we will find ‘praise and honor and glory.’ *Praise*—Jesus Christ will commend us! *Honor—*He will give us a task to perform! *Glory—*He will cause us to shine as sparkling jewels in His kingdom! All the music there will ring out in the major key. But we’ll be forever grateful for the minor strains we experienced here on earth, for they will make the heavenly oratorio all the sweeter!”[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. **Provides an intimate relationship**

**1 Peter 1:8***—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*

1. We usually love one whom we have seen
2. In contrast to these believers, Peter had seen
3. He has spent 3 years physically with Jesus
4. He walked, talked, listened, touched, dinned with Him
5. Peter saw Jesus before and after His resurrection
6. Peter looked at him with natural eyes, something these believers never did
7. Although his love was challenged, he did love Jesus (**Jn 21:15-22**)
8. Peter silently places himself below his readers.[[2]](#footnote-2)
9. Their love may be considered more praiseworthy

**John 20:29**—*Jesus \*said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”*

1. These believers had maintained a true love for Jesus in the midst of persecution
2. *Love* (agapate)—love of the will, the noblest form of love
3. The love they had was a constant, ongoing love for the Lord

**2:7a** (KJV)—*Unto you therefore which believe he is precious:*

**1 Cor 16:22**—*If anyone does not love the Lord, he is to be accursed. Maranatha.*

***Ephesians 6:24****—**Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.*

***1 John 4:19****—We love, because He first loved us.*

1. The joy we experience stems from a love for an unseen Lord
2. Believing and loving go hand in hand

**1:8***—and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him*

**Hebrews 11:1**—*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

1. We believe what the Word of God says about the person and work of Jesus

**2 Tim 3:15**—*and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

1. Believing translates into loving and obedience
2. “The more faith can know of Christ, and the more such knowledge possesses the heart, the stronger believers’ love for Him becomes and the more joy they exhibit.”[[3]](#footnote-3)

**1 John 2:5**—*but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:*

**Ps 5:11**—*But let all who take refuge in You be glad, Let them ever sing for joy; And may You shelter them, That those who love Your name may exult in You.*

1. *As such we have a joy inexpressible*
2. *Inexpressible—*literally “higher than speech”
3. The idea is we have a joy so high (so great), it is beyond words
4. Words fail to adequately communicate such joy
5. it is also *full of glory*
6. *Glory* (*doxazō*)—to render highest praise; glorify (54x); extol[[4]](#footnote-4)
7. Strong’s G1391: to render (or esteem) glorious (in a wide application):—(make) glorify(-ious), full of (have) glory, honour, magnify.
8. from which we get doxology
9. In our relationship with Christ, we have both a supernatural love and a transcendent joy
10. **Currently obtaining rescue**

**1 Peter 1:9***—obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.*

1. Outcome—“presently receiving for yourself”; root word means “to receive what is deserved.”[[5]](#footnote-5) “Carrying or bringing away for yourselves” so as to have and ever after to enjoy.[[6]](#footnote-6)
   1. The believer is saved by the person and work of Christ applied to their account
   2. The result or outcome of that relationship not only the settled reality of our future inheritance, but here a present salvation
   3. It is the deliverance from the penalty of sin
   4. It is a deliverance from the power of sin in our lives[[7]](#footnote-7)
      1. Guilt

**Romans 6:18**—…*and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*

***Ephesians 1:7****—In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace*

***Colossians 2:13-14****—When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,****14****having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*

* + 1. Condemnation

**Romans 8:1**— *Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

* + 1. Wrath

**Romans 5:9**—*Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.*

**1 Thes 1:10***—…and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.*

* + 1. Ignorance

**Romans 10:1-3**—*Brethren, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.****2****For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.****3****For not knowing about God’s righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.*

**Galatians 4:8-9a**—*However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods. .****9a****But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God…*

**1 Timothy 1:12-13**—*I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service,****13****even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief*

* + 1. Distress

**Ps 18:6***—In my distress I called upon the Lord,  
And cried to my God for help; He heard my voice out of His temple, And my cry for help before Him came into His ears.*

**Ps 31:9***—Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; My eye is wasted away from grief, my soul and my body also.*

**Is 33:2***—O Lord, be gracious to us; we have waited for You. Be their strength every morning, Our salvation also in the time of distress.*

**Romans 2:9***—There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek*

**Romans 8:35, 37***—Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?****37****But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.*

* + 1. Confusion

**Is 9:16**—For those who guide this people are *leading them astray; And those who are guided by them are brought to confusion.*

**Is 59:4***—No one sues righteously and no one pleads honestly. They trust in confusion and speak lies; They conceive mischief and bring forth iniquity.*

**1 Cor 14:33**—*for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.*

* + 1. Hopelessness

**1 Cor 15:17, 20**—*and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins….* ***20****But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.*

**1 Peter 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,*

* + 1. Dominion

**Romans 6:10-12**—*For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.****11****Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.* ***12****Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,*

1. The salvation of your souls
   1. There will be a final rescue when the soul enters heaven
   2. We will have a new glorified body one day housing our eternal souls

**Conclusion**

For the believer to not fully comprehend or even to “lose their joy” fails to realize the incredible resources the Lord provides for our present as well as the future blessings that our ours through faith.

**John 15:11***—These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.*

**Homework:** Memorize **1 Peter 1:1-12**

**Source**

Most of the message and notes come from:

Richard W. DeHaan*, Good News for Bad Times: 1 Peter*

R.C.H. Lenski, *The Interpretation of I and II Epistles of Peter, the three Epistles of John, and the Epistle of Jude*

John MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, 1 Peter*

# John MacArthur, The Joy of Salvation, Part 2, June 12, 1988, [www.gty.org](http://www.gty.org)

Jerome H Smith*, The New Treasure of Scripture Knowledge*

[www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)

1. Richard W De Haan, Good News for Bad Times, p26. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Lenski, 41. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. MacArthur, 47. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. MacArthur, 48; Strong’s G2865 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Lenski, 42. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. MacArthur, 48. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)