

1 Peter 1:6-9Introduction

1. 36-yrs-ago I heard Joni E. Tada speak in person in Chicago. (Show)
 - a. Perhaps no 1 taught value of Trials and how to accept them like Joni has.
 - i. Hard to believe smile on woman's face is quadrapalegic who barely move.
 - ii. Details: paralyzed diving accident, confined wheelchair, internat. ministry
 - iii. For nearly 4 decades God has been using her to give hope to millions.
 - b. I am amazed 36-yrs after hearing her speak I hear her on radio here in Marquette.
 - c. What keeps this remarkable woman going dealing w/disability like this.
 - d. This is not to say that Joni doesn't have down times over her disability.¹
 - e. Not easy, but thru it all discovered resource that makes her confident in suffering.
2. What is that resource? Where does confidence come from in the face of trials?
 - a. Title of this message is Benefiting from Life's Trials. (Title/Text)
 - b. We benefit from our trials when we have confident faith. Faith makes us confident.

I. FAITH GIVES THE PERSPECTIVE ON TRIALS (v. 6).**A. Explain Peter's Perspective.**

1. perspective = power to see/think of things in their tru relationship to each other²
2. What Peter does is to put time in relationship to eternity.
3. Tells us that our faith is able to put the pres. into perspec. w/the future.

B. Peter Contrasts Two Phrases--little time (v. 6) vs. last time (v. 5).

1. **LAST TIME** = return of JC in Rapture to gather children, glorify bodies, take heaven.
2. **LITTLE TIME** = this present life in a sinful, fallen, cursed world that is soon to end.

3. little time (v. 6) vs. last time (v. 5)

- | | | |
|-----------|-----|-------------|
| a. trials | vs. | deliverance |
| b. grief | | rejoicing |

- i. We have joy now in a small way (sins forgiven, heart changed, HS living).
- ii. Imagine joy when Christ comes (sin removed, old nat.gone, body glor, J.pres).
- iii. We experince joy in small way now, but imagine what glorious joy'll be like.
- iv. Living in a glorified body w/no limitations will mean no limitations to joy.
- v. What Peter means v.8. Just little taste now—thank God—someday glor. joy.

c. temporary, (small, few) forever**4. The life of a Christian is wondrously ruled in this world by the consideration and meditation of the life of another world³**

- a. That's point Peter is making. When compare little time to last time.
- b. We are able to rule the little time w/all its trials by meditation on the last time.
- c. Believers can say, This is tough. This hurts. But the best is yet to come.

¹ Sometimes I wake up and think, "I just can't do this--it's so hard!" Decision, Vol. 43, #11, 11/02, p. 23.

² Webster's New Students Dictionary, 1964, p. 638.

³ Puritan Richard Sibbes quoted in Ritzema, E., & Vince, E. (Eds.). (2013). 300 Quotations for Preachers from the Puritans. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

II. FAITH GIVES THE PURPOSE OF TRIALS (v. 7).**A. If Necessary (v. 6)**

1. The NIV says *you may have to*. Refers to divine necessity.
2. God is preparing us for special purpose/destiny. Suffering one of key tools uses.
3. When understand, encourages us because know God is working out gracious plan.
4. Peter reveals plan right here. Key lessons book of Job summarized in one verse.

B. Three Purposes For Trials**1. Trials causes faith to be purified.**

- a. Peter likens our faith to gold that is tried or tested by fire.
 - i. Gold is 1 of precious metals. Because rare, worth so much.
 - ii. But when gold is mined fr. earth it is full of impurities—slag.
 - iii. For gold be refined melted down under intense heat. Slag rises/skimmed off.
 - iv. Eastern goldsmith kept metal in furnace until he could see his face reflected in it.⁴
 - 1) Kept the heat on until all slag removed, and then turned off the heat.
 - 2) Poured it into mold make something special like ring, bracelet, ingot.
- b. That's what God does with each believer—Job 23:10.
 - i. Our lives are so full of impurities aren't they? Let's be honest.
 - 1) Selfishness, materialism, lack of love, unbelief, stubborn pride, unforg.
 - 2) So Lord turns up heat of trials to purify us from that ugly slag.
 - 3) As go thru painful exper. look to Lord—for have nowhere else turn.
 - 4) *When Lord is all you have, that's when learn Lord is all you need.*
 - 5) As look draw closer to. As draw closer to Lord shows us areas wrong.
 - 6) As yield lives Lord skims away impurities until His face reflected more.
 - ii. Painful! Diff! But isn't wonderful have face Lord reflected in us for all see?

2. Trials causes faith to be proved.

- a. proved genuine (NIV) = to test for the purpose of approving⁵
- b. Faith that God is one day going to honor has to be proved to be real.
- c. Just as a false gold, so also false faith. Looks like real thing until tested.
 - i. Beware lest be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing fr. living God.⁶
 - ii. Describing false faith. Here's what happens.
 - 1) God allows hard xs., difficulties, persecution, even offences to come.
 - 2) Person w/false faith becomes offended, disillusioned--falls away.
 - 3) Maybe you've seen people where happen. Give Don Monroe's story.⁷

⁴ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996, c1989). The Bible exposition commentary. "An exposition of the New Testament comprising the entire 'BE' series"--Jkt. (1 Pe 1:6). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

⁵ Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures (1 Pe 1:7). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

⁶ Hebrews 3:12.

⁷ 2 couples baptized with him on same day. Neither one now follows the Lord or lives for Him at all. What happened? Don't know. But one thing that often happens is that hardship, difficulty, trials of life discourage people and they turn away from the Lord. Such people often have false faith.

- iii. Trials will either drive you closer to God or farther from God. Which 1?
 - 1) Farther, then reason for concern. Faith being disproved by testing.
 - 2) Closer, then reason to rejoice. Faith being proved by testing.
- iv. Share poem: *Your faith is being tested.*⁸ (Show)

3. Trials causes faith to be praised.

- a. If you wonder what will it be like when Jesus returns for his children? Here is.
- b. Heaven will involve at least 3 wonderful exper. for those faith purified/proved.
 - i. praise = Well done. Good job. Tough, but you served me. J. thanking U.
 - ii. honor = Positions of recognition/responsibility in G's kingdom.
 - iii. glory = Glorified bodies to dwell in the glorious presence of the Lord.
- c. That's worth suffering for! Let's move to 3rd way faith makes us confident.

III. FAITH GIVES US JESUS CHRIST IN TRIALS (v. 8-9).

- A. So Far Talking About Future (Pie in the sky by & by. What about bread here & now?)
 - 1. Is there anyone to encourage us right now? Is there anyone to lean on now?
 - 2. The answer is yes, Jesus. Peter tells us the secret to exper. encouraging pres of J.
 - 3. If you believe in God, sensible thing to do is to live as if you are in His presence.⁹
 - 4. There is no mystery as to how to do this. It involves three daily, practical actions.
- B. Peter Tells Us How to Practice the Presence of Christ Jesus.
 - 1. Love Christ, v. 8a.
 - a. Read what Jesus said in John 14:23.¹⁰ So just keep loving & obeying.
 - b. He says I'll make My home with you. You'll know my encouraging presence.
 - 2. Trust Christ, v. 8b.
 - a. Keep believing. Don't doubt. Trust His Word.
 - b. And as you do His still small voice will say, Peace, be still, I am with you.
 - 3. Look for Christ, v. 9.
 - a. I love this verse. Receiving is in the present tense. So certain already begun.
 - b. We are just waiting for Jesus to bring us finally home. We are looking for Him.

CONCLUSION

- 1. Did you know Joni wrote book on heaven. Heaven: Your Real Home. (Show)
- 2. Guess what said best part of heaven for her? Not leaping out of wheelchair.
- 3. Listen to her words.¹¹ Exper. now as walk w/J. Someday fully when see face/face
- 4. That's the confidence of faith.

⁸ <http://www.faithclub.org/#!/your-faith-is-being-tested/c6w9>. Accessed 4/24/15.

⁹ <http://realpowermaxingoutongodslove.com/Reminders%20of%20Gods%20presence.htm>. Accessed 4/24/15.

¹⁰ If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

¹¹ Of heaven she writes, I won't be crippled by distractions, or disabled by insincerity. I won't be handicapped by a ho-hum halfheartedness. My heart will join with yours and bubble over with effervescent adoration. We will finally be able to fellowship fully with the Father and the Son. For me, this will be the best part of heaven. "Heaven," *In Other Words*. Vol. 11, Issue 2, Summer 2001, p. 6-7.