

## The Book of I Peter Part 2 – I Peter 1:6-12

The book of I Peter contains so many wonderful truths that God has given us. It would be impossible for us to cover every aspect of what God has here. It's so important that you study the Word, that you get into the Word of God and you read what God has for you.

In I Peter chapter 1, there are so many gold nuggets there that, once again, it would be impossible to exhaust everything found in that chapter. A preacher could preach on this for years and still have gold nuggets that are still there, ready to be mined. And you need to get into the Word of God and study the Scriptures for yourself to understand the great goodness of God that He has for you personally.

In I Peter 1:6, it says, *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations.* I believe what Peter is trying to tell us here is that there is joy in the midst of suffering. When I think of suffering, I automatically think of Paul, of all the sufferings he went through, but Peter also suffered, and Peter is telling us here that there is joy in the midst of suffering.

And notice here the hope, the rejoicing. He says, "wherein ye greatly rejoice." Wherein... there is great rejoicing because of hope. The author, Peter here, is speaking of I Peter 1:3. The Bible speaks of that, and James 1:2 says, *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations.* We're to be, once again, ready for all things that come into our lives as Christians. Some of them are not what we would think of as happy times, but we need to be ready to face those. And the way we face those times of temptations, those times of trials, is to be strong in the Lord, to trust in the Lord.

And you trust more and more daily as you get into His Word, as you pray and you speak with Him, and you have a quiet time alone with Him. He gives you the courage. He gives you the joy. Of course, the Bible says, "The joy of the Lord is my strength."

And notice in that verse also, verse 6, it talks about a season. It says, *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season...* A season, this is a short period of time. It's a short period of suffering compared to eternity.

In II Corinthians 4:17, it says, *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.* Our life here is just a speck. The Bible says, "What is your life? It is even a vapor that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away." So when we compare the sufferings that we possibly could go through with here as we travel this life as Christians, it's only but for a moment compared to eternity. And let me say this, that you're not saved by suffering. You're not saved by doing certain things or getting points with God. As Peter points out in several instances in this epistle that we are saved by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. There's nothing you can do to save yourself. It's all of God.

And notice in I Peter 1:7 it says, *That the trial of your faith... speaking once again of these temptations and sufferings... 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.* Whatever we do is to bring honor and glory to our Lord and Savior. Whatever we do, we should not think that because we're suffering or

because we're going through something that we're getting points with God. No, we need to look at it as such that brings honor and glory to our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Notice that verse. It talks about your enduring. Your enduring or the trial of your faith that is tested is worth more than gold. Why? Because gold will perish, and your enduring, your faith, will be to Christ's praise, glory, and honor when He appears.

Don't you know that the devil doesn't understand anything of what's going on? Why would people go through this? Why would people suffer? Why would they go through trials and temptations? He doesn't understand this, and of course, he's lost. He can never be saved. Neither can the demons that serve him, and they must actually wonder why you and I would be willing to suffer for our Lord. And we have the answer, of course, as we're going through this in I Peter. It's because of the sufferings of our Lord that we're going through this, because of what He did for us. The Bible says He first loved us and gave Himself for us that we could be saved and on our way to Heaven.

And of course, that verse, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*, John 3:16. And I believe that many people today know that verse, even unsaved people, but they don't allow it to come into their hearts. They don't grasp that meaning that God loved them so much that He gave Jesus Christ, His Son, to die for them on the cross of Calvary, to shed His blood that whosoever would believe in Him and on Him would have eternal life.

Did you know that's the reason that the devil can't believe. He doesn't believe and he won't believe. The Bible says the natural man, and in this case the natural devil... the natural man

receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God. Why? Because they are spiritually discerned.

A person today who is unsaved can understand they're lost, they can't save themselves, they need a Savior, and Jesus Christ is the One who can save them. And if they'll call upon Him, He can save them. That's when an unsaved person can understand from the Word of God. The things of God are spiritually discerned and only by the Spirit of God are these things revealed to mankind. And that is what He wants to reveal to you today if you've never trusted Him as your Lord and Savior, that you're lost. You can't save yourself.

All have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and the wages of sin is death. And you need to trust Him as your Lord and Savior. That's what you can understand as an unsaved person. Ask Him to come into your life.

First Peter 1:8 says, *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.* How can we have joy? Because we know that He loved us first, and it's because of His love that we can love. And notice this verse says there is rejoicing with joy that's inexpressible. We can't express. It's inexpressible and full of glory. We bring glory to God when we rejoice in suffering for Him, for loving Him whom ye have not seen, it says there, for believing Him whom ye have not seen. We haven't seen Him with naked eye, but we see Him through the eye of faith.

We remember old Doubting Thomas. He said, "Unless I touch Him, unless I put my hand in His side, unless I see the nail prints and touch His hands, I'll not believe." Well, Jesus appeared and Thomas saw Him, and he did what he said. He touched Him. He said, "My Lord and my God."

And Jesus told him, he says, "You believe because you've seen Me. You believe because you touched Me, but more blessed are those who have not seen Me and have believed." And that's us. That's people who are living today who have never seen Jesus Christ, and yet, they believe what He said in His Scriptures, in His Word, that He is the Son of God, that He is God, that He is the Savior. And that brings you joy and rejoicing, unspeakable, in our hearts.

First Peter 1:9 says, *Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.* This is the final aspect of faith in Christ, and that is salvation future, the future inheritance. We're looking forward to that day when we will be with Him eternally, and that brings joy to the hearts of people who lose a loved one, and it brings joy to the heart of that loved one who's getting ready to go to be with the Lord.

The Bible says in John 14:1-2, ***1Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2In my Father's house are many mansions...*** and He goes on to say... ***if it were not so, I would have told you.*** And he also goes on to say, ***I go to prepare a place for you. 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.***

And that should bring joy to the heart of every individual in this world, but sadly, it doesn't bring joy to the heart of those people who've never trusted Christ. It brings joy to the hearts of those people who know Jesus Christ as Savior. There's only one way to God. There's only one way to Heaven, and that's through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Well, notice something else now. In I Peter 1:10-12, it says, ***10Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: 11Searching what, or what manner of time***

*the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. 12Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.*

Well, the Old Testament prophets didn't understand everything. They prophesied that there was coming a time when a Messiah would come into the world, that there was coming a time when someone would come and die for the sins of the world. They spoke even of the sufferings of Christ beforehand, and they did not understand everything that was going to come to pass. They just accepted it by faith the same way you and I do. They had not seen Christ. We have not seen Christ physically. But they believed and so do we who have trusted Him as Savior today. But they wrote of these things. The Old Testament prophets wrote of the things of Christ coming into this world to receive those who would receive Him as Savior and also of the future that would take place.

And notice in these verses that I just read in I Peter 1:10-12, first, the prophets inquired and searched diligently about future salvation. That's I Peter 1:10. It talks about they searched diligently. And the Bible says that we are to search diligently as people of God. The Bible tells us that we are to look into the Scriptures and seek those things that God has for us personally. Now, He has things for all individuals collectively. He has things for all Christians collectively, but He has something for you personally.

First of all, that is a personal salvation. That is what God did for you. He sent His Son to die for you personally. And then we see that there is a future personal salvation that takes place for

every born-again believer. And as we continue this study, we're going to see that the prophets wondered. They gave Christ's testimony. They knew about Him, and they testified of the glories to follow, the future. They saw all of these things.

May God help you as you look into His Word. Study the Scriptures to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.

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