



I Peter Lesson 2

I PETER 1:6-25—VICTORIOUS LIVING IN PRESENT SUFFERING

According to Peter's introduction, he is speaking to groups of Christians that have left their homelands and moved to regions that are foreign to them to escape the Roman Empire's severe persecution. Not only are they displaced but they are threatened with much harm if they confess to be Christians or practice Christian traditions. Many have already been injured or killed. Severe suffering has become part of their daily experience, and discouragement must be settling in. They have to be questioning whether their new faith is worth the high price they are paying. Peter's goal is to get their eyes from focusing on this world, to the unseen realities reserved in heaven for them.

So Peter takes them to the promises of God and the reality of their future hope. He doesn't give them false promises that

God will make all the suffering disappear, and life will go back to normal. In fact, he tells them that this suffering is the most precious thing they could be experiencing. Their suffering is worthwhile because their faith is the most valuable commodity to God, and He will use it purposely to refine their faith and make it stronger. They must be put in circumstances that appear to be too great to bear so they can see God bear them through it. If they endure, His faithfulness to His people and their trust in Him in the most difficult times will reveal the wonder of His love and mercy and will lead to His glory. But in the meantime, some are falling away and some are struggling to the point of giving up. Peter's goal is to speak truth into their lives to counter the lies that they are believing and encourage them to be overcomers.

READ 1 PETER 1:6-25

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NAS)

“In this you _____ even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been _____ by _____, that the _____ of your faith, being more _____ than gold which is perishable, even though _____ by fire, may be found to result in _____ and _____ and _____ at the revelation of Jesus Christ...”

1. *What kinds of lies, doubts, negative thoughts, or compromises may these people be telling themselves in their state of severe suffering? What kinds of those negative thoughts do you begin to think when life gets very difficult? Give a specific example.*

2. *Does it help for you to know that your suffering has value or purpose? Why or why not?*

3. *What does Peter tell these people is the purpose and value of their suffering? Would it be true to say that all the suffering of believers throughout history had and does have that same value and purpose?*

Look up and record other passages where the word or its base are used. You can shorten the passage to get the main phrase.

Word study 1

Greatly rejoice - agalliao-to exult; to leap for joy

Matt. 5:12

John 5:35

Acts 16:34

1 Peter 1:6

1 Peter 4:13

Rev. 19:7

Word study 2

Distressed-lupeo- sorrow; to be grieved

Matt. 17:23

18:31

19:22

26:22

Mark 10:22

14:19

John 16:20

21:17

2 Cor. 2:2-5

6:10

7:8-9,11

Word study 3

Various-poikilos- variegated; many-colored

used of sickness:

Matt. 4:24

Mark 1:34

Luke 4:40

used of desires:

2 Tim. 3:6

Titus 3:3

used of miracles:

Hebrews 2:4

used of doctrines:

Hebrews 13:9

used of temptations:

James 1:2

1 Peter 1:6

gifts of grace:

1 Peter 4:10

Word study 4

Trials-peirsmou-a trial or temptation; putting to the test. A state of trial in which God brings His people through adversity and affliction in order to encourage and prove their faith and confidence in Him.

*Matt. 6:13
26:41*

Mark 14:38

*Luke 8:13
11:4
22:40*

1 Cor. 10:13

James 1:2, 12

1 Peter 1:6

2 Peter 2:9

Word study 5

Proof-doximion- approved; tried; the means of proving; a criterion or test by which anything is proved or tried. Tried as metal by fire thus to be purified.

*Romans 16:10
14:18*

*2 Cor. 10:18
13:7*

2 Tim. 2:15

*James 1:3
1:12*

1 Peter 1:7

Word study 6

Precious-timios- desirable, dear, precious

Acts 20:24

James 5:7

1 Pet. 1:7, 19

2 Peter 1:4

*Proverbs 3:15
8:11*

Word Study 7

Perishable-appolumi-to be destroyed; to perish

*Matt. 5:29-30
9:17*

Mark 2:22

Luke 5:37

John 6:27

James 1:11

1 Peter 1:7

4. *After doing the word study, what new conclusions can you make about the significance of suffering and faith?*

5. *What does the “In this” of verse 6 refer back to that enables them to “greatly rejoice” even though they are experiencing trials?*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
