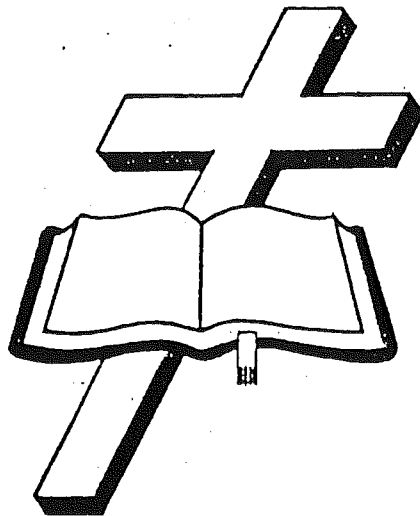


# SUFFERING WITH JOY

(The Basis Of Joy In The Midst Of Pain)  
I Peter 1:1-8



## JOY IS BASED UPON:

- ◆ Your Justification
- ◆ Your Expectation
- ◆ Your Revelation
- ◆ Your Transformation

*“Ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory” (I Peter 1:8)*

Bill Kirk

# “SUFFERING WITH JOY”

**Text:** I Peter 1:1-8

**Subject:** How To Suffer With The Joy Of The Lord

## Introduction

- ◆ Someone once said, “It’s not what you go through that matters, but how you go through it is what really counts”
- ◆ When Robert Schuller’s daughter lost her leg in a motorcycle accident, he said, “We asked God to turn our scars into stars”.
- ◆ Schuller also said, “When life deals you a lemon, add sugar to it and make lemonade”.

(That’s God’s Intention In I Peter)

**Question:** Who wrote I Peter?

**Answer:** Peter the apostle around 64 A.D.

**Question:** Who did Peter write to?

**Answer:** Believers who were in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, (now living in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, now modern Turkey).

**Question:** Why did Peter write his letter?

**Answer:** To encourage believers who go through sufferings, afflictions and disappointments.

- ◆ Peter mentions suffering 16 times by using 8 different Greek terms.
- ◆ Peter writes just before the first of nine persecutions that took place under the Roman empire during the next 250 years.
- ◆ Peter has a pastor’s heart as God speaks an edifying word to us all:

**Question:** What’s the word of the Lord?

**Answer:** How to go through, what you go through, with God’s perspective.

## Feel The Intent Of God’s Message (To Every Believer)

In chapter 1:6, “There is wonderful joy ahead, even though it is necessary for you to endure many trials for a while”. (**Suffering with Joy**)

In chapter 2:20, “If you suffer unfair treatment and are patient, God is pleased with you” (**Suffering with Patience**)

In chapter 3:9, 14, “Don’t retaliate when people say unkind things about you...for if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it” (**Suffering with Forgiveness**)

In chapter 4:12, 14, “Don’t be surprised at fiery trials you go through...be happy if you are insulted for being a Christian, for then the Spirit of God will come upon you”. (**Suffering with power**)

In chapter 5:10, “After you have suffered a while, God will restore, support, strengthen and place you on a firm foundation”. (**Suffering With Reward**)

**Question:** How many of you (if you suffer) want to suffer with **joy**?

**Question:** How many of you (if you suffer) want to suffer with **patience**?

**Question:** How many of you (if you suffer) want to suffer with **forgiveness**?

**Question:** How many of you (if you suffer) want to suffer with **power**?

**Question:** How many of you (if you suffer) want to suffer with **reward**?

## Today, In Chapter 1 – “Suffering With Joy” (Notice verse 8)

“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”.

(Verse 8 In The New Living Translation Says:)

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“You love Him even though you have never seen Him. Though you do not see Him, you trust Him, and even now you are happy with a glorious, inexpressible joy”.

- ◆ Pastor, how can I be joyful when suffering?
- ◆ Pastor, where does this joy come from?
- ◆ Pastor, what’s the truth that sets me free from murmuring and a downcast heart?
- ◆ Pastor, what’s the basis of my joy (which is my strength) when I pass through the vicissitudes of life. (In my family, my employment, my health, my detours, pain or tears?)

**(Understand This:)**

**Joy of our soul is different from joy in our spirit**

Those who try to stir up joy in their mind, will or emotions will eventually experience depression and burnout.

Joy in our souls is like a candle; it gives light, but it is self-consuming.

On The other hand, joy generated in our spirits is like the flame of an oil lamp.

As long as we are filled with the Spirit of God, joy like an oil lamp will burn indefinitely.

David describes how our spirit encourages our soul in Psalm 42:11

He reveals how it’s possible for the soul to be sorrowful and the spirit to be joyful at the same time:

“Why art thou cast down, O my soul? Why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God, for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God”.

**(Here We Discover)**

- ◆ Joy is God’s energy in my spirit that expresses itself.
- ◆ This energy from God comes from continuous fellowship with the Lord and His Word and His Spirit.
- ◆ This energy is depleted to the degree we grieve the Holy Spirit with things that displease the Lord.

**(The Question Is:)**

- #1. Do we experience emotional drain by trying to act joyful from our soul (emotions)? (or)
- #2. Do we fill the lamp of our spirit through daily fellowship with God, (so that joy becomes a natural expression)?

**I. Joy Is Founded Upon *Justification* (V. 2)**

**Question:** How does God encourage the believers in suffering?

**Answer:** He begins with the basis of all joy:

**(Verse 2)** “Through sanctification of the spirit unto obedience (and) sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ” (which means:)

**#1. The Holy Spirit convicts us and draws us to Jesus**

- ◆ The Spirit attracts you to Jesus.
- ◆ The Spirit sets you apart for God’s purpose.
- ◆ The Spirit provokes you to obedience.
- ◆ The Spirit sanctifies (or molds and shapes you into the image of Jesus).
- ◆ The Spirit uses your circumstances, suffering, sorrow and hardships to mature you into a godly person.

**(#1. Joy comes as we yield to the Holy Spirit and walk in obedience)**

**#2. Joy is birthed when you are justified**

**(V. 2)** “...sprinkling of the Blood of Jesus” means:

- ◆ To be justified in God's sight by the Blood of His Son. **(It means:)**
- ◆ We’ve all broken the Law of God!
- ◆ We’ve all rebelled against God!
- ◆ We’ve all stood before God guilty in sin!
- ◆ We’ve all incurred the penalty, judgment, condemnation and wrath of God for sin.

(But Now In Jesus)

- ◆ He sprinkled (or covered) all our transgressions with His Blood at Calvary.
- ◆ He gave us right standing before God.
- ◆ He made us guiltless in God's sight.

(So Now V. 2)

"Grace and Peace are multiplied to us"

- ◆ "Grace" – means undeserved favor.
- ◆ "Peace" – means to be secure in God's acceptance of you.

(So #1 – God is saying to us:)

- ◆ Joy in suffering begins with the Spirit's drawing.
- ◆ Joy in suffering begins as we are forgiven and justified before God.

II. Joy Is Founded Upon Expectation (Vs. 3, 4)

Question: What did God put in you when you obeyed the drawing of the Holy Spirit and were saved?

Answer: (V. 3), "He begot (or birthed) in you a lively hope".

Question: What is a lively hope?

Answer: A lively hope is something functioning inside of you this moment:

- ◆ You know that as Jesus was raised from the dead, (so you will be raised from the dead).
- ◆ You know that as Jesus ascended to heaven, (so you will spend eternity in heaven).
- ◆ You know that as Jesus was kept by His Father, (so you will be kept by your Father).

Question: Pastor, how does the reality of the resurrection put joy in my heart?

Answer: Because the resurrection gives you an expectation:

(Notice Verse 4)

(Peter lists your expected inheritance)

(V. 4), "To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you".

Question: How does God describe our sure inheritance?

#1. It is "incorruptible" (APHTHARTON) which means:

- ◆ It cannot perish, age, deteriorate or die.

#2. It is "undefiled" (AMIANTON) which means:

- ◆ It will not be polluted, defiled, soiled or infected (no defects, disease or damage).

#3. It "fades not away" (AMARANTON) which means:

- ◆ Its beauty will last forever (and never fade or diminish or wear away)

#4. It is "reserved" which means:

- ◆ It is being held by God for those who receive His mercy, are born again and believe in their future resurrection.

III. Joy Is Founded Upon Revelation (V. 5)

Question: What's the revelation that sustains the joy within your heart?

Answer: (V. 5), "Who (that's you) are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time".

Question: What does it mean to be "kept by the power of God"?

Answer: The word "kept" means:

#1. "To be protected"

#2. "To be garrisoned about"

#3. "To be shielded"

#4. "To be guarded"

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- ◆ It's a military term that refers to soldiers who guard someone for safe keeping.
- ◆ It means to keep in protective custody by a wall of fire about you.
- ◆ It's a present tense Greek word that emphasizes the continual nature of God's keeping power.

**(It Doesn't Mean...)**

- ◆ ...that believers are shielded from pain, difficulty, anguish or suffering.

**(It Does Mean...)**

- ◆ ...that believers are kept by God in the midst of whatever you pass through.
- ◆ ...It means that God will preserve you until you receive your inheritance.
- ◆ ...It means you can "fret not" and "worry not" and "chill out" (why?)
- ◆ ...Because the One who saves you is the One who keeps you and sustains you through every season of your life.

**(This Is A Joy Producer)**

**IV. Joy Is Founded Upon Transformation (Vs. 6 & 7)**

**(Verse 6 Is A Paradox)**

"Wherein ye greatly rejoice" (on one hand),

"Though now for a season, if need be, you are in heaviness through manifold temptations" (on the other hand).

**(In Other Words)**

#1. We rejoice with joy and ecstasy knowing that God will keep us. **(But #2)**

- ◆ We experience **heaviness** at times because of manifold (or various) tribulations.
- ◆ The word "**heaviness**" (LUPETHENTES) means: "**Sorrow and anguish from the weight of trial**" (repeat)

**Question:** Pastor, how can I have joy when I have to go through sorrow and anguish from the weight of trial?

(V. 7), "That the trial of your faith being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried by fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory when Jesus returns".

**Question:** What gives you joy when you're going through the fire of suffering?

**Answer:** Like gold, you know that you'll come out better than you went in.

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ Raw gold must be cast into a mold to form a useful object.
- ◆ For this to happen, solid ore must be melted at 1,900 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ◆ When the gold is melted, the impurities rise to the surface.
- ◆ They are then skimmed off and burned.
- ◆ And the goldsmith knows the gold is ready to cast when he can see his face reflected in the surface.

**(The Parallel Is Obvious Here)**

- ◆ When you go through the fire, you are refined and grow spiritually.
- ◆ The more you grow spiritually, the more you reflect the image of Jesus.
- ◆ And knowing this, produces joy in spiritually minded people.

**(So Much So)**

- ◆ In verse 8, that you can rejoice with **joy unspeakable** because your goal in life is to be like Jesus.

**AMEN!**

Bill Kirk, Pastor