

“How is Joy Possible in Suffering?”

I Peter 1:6-9

“Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be alright, and the determined choice to praise God in every situation.”- **Kay Warren**

I Peter 1:6-9 *In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

James 1:2 *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,*

Truth #1: Joy is possible because hard times are temporary.

I Peter 1:6 *In this you rejoice, though now for a little while*

II Corinthians 4:16-18 *So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*

Truth #2: Joy is possible because hard times are necessary.

I Peter 1:6 *In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary*

-To prove my faith.

I Peter 1:7 *so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire ...*

“Just as fire separates gold from useless dross, so God uses suffering and trials to separate true faith from superficial profession.”- **John MacArthur**

-To perfect my faith.

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

“Adversity (hard times) is God’s most effective tool for the advancement of our spiritual lives.”- **Charles Stanley**

James 1:3-4 *for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

Application:

-Sight isn't needed to love Jesus.

I Peter 1:8 *Though you have not seen him, you love him. ...*

-Sight isn't needed to live by faith.

I Peter 1:8 ... *Though you do not now see him, you believe in him ...*

“Peter shows us simultaneous grief and joy to be normal in the Christian life. Grief arises because of many difficulties encountered in this fallen world, but faith looks to the unseen reality beyond this present brief existence and rejoices.”-
Wayne Grudem

-Sight isn't needed to produce joy in my life.

I Peter 1:8 ... *and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,*

I Peter 1:9 *obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

Joy is possible in hard times because they are intended to bring you closer to Jesus and many times farther from your sin.