

Filled with Joy

1 Peter 1:3-12



Weighed Down

What are some things that weigh us down?
“Filled with joy” even when there is trouble

1 Peter 1

Written to “scattered exiles”
God is to be praised! Why??

The Big Idea

**Even in all kinds of troubles,
we are living in the best possible journey in Christ**

Living hope in a living Savior

Guarded by God for an inheritance He’s guarding

He brings good through every circumstance

Trust in Him when in trouble proves our faith

Prophets & angels wish they had what we have!

Satan’s goals in troubles:

Steal, kill, destroy

Trouble in his hands is meant to ruin us and others

God’s goals in troubles:

Turn our junk into pure gold

Using every circumstance *Romans 8:28-30*

For our good and joy! *1 Peter 5:10-11*

We all experience trouble!

For those who are “in Christ” ...

God Himself guards us and our inheritance so we can’t miss any of it!

In God’s hands, trials bring good growth

In God’s hands, trials prove our faith

We know and experience His love personally, especially in trials



Application

Re-see our lives by faith IN GOD

Guarded BY GOD Himself

Shaped BY GOD Himself through troubles

Loving God when facing troubles proves the reality of our faith IN GOD

We live what prophets and angels long for:

The Holy Spirit’s powerful presence of the superabounding love of God for us

Rejoice with the joy of tomorrow

Inexpressible and filled with glory

As our faith grows through trials, our present experience of future joy grows

“For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” *Hebrews 12:2*

Praise God!

God Himself is using troubles in our lives to bring us the joy of our future glory in Christ

And bring us the inexpressible and glorious joy that will be ours with Him forever!

The mystery of the journey of Jesus

Prophets tried to make sense of what we see

Jesus had a guaranteed inheritance as God

Yet he suffered grief in all kinds of trials

Which proved His faith, and equipped Him for today's ministry of love and compassion for us

And He walks with us as we walk the same road

As our faith grows through trials, our present experience of future joy grows

"Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls." *1 Peter 1:8-9*

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. What are the troubles that weigh you down? Think both about your current troubles, and also about the kinds of troubles that weigh you down over time.
 2. What is the difference between Satan's goals in our troubles, and God's goals? What might it be like when they are both trying to use the same trouble for their own purposes?
 3. "As our faith grows through trials, our present experience of future joy grows." What does that mean? How have you experienced that? Where do you want to experience it?
 4. How are we to re-see our lives by faith in God?
 5. Why does it matter that Jesus led the way in walking a road filled with various troubles before being seated in glory with God the Father?
-

Conversation Starter

Ask God to give you an opportunity to talk this week with someone who is weighed down, and ask Him to show His love as you listen.

What things weigh you down? What is weighing you down today?

What helps you find hope and courage when you are weighed down?

Listen until they are done speaking. Then listen some more. And if the opportunity seems right, point to our High Priest, Jesus Christ, who helps us in our troubles and weakness because He also suffered (see Hebrews 4:15).