



***Equipped for The Inevitable
“Perseverance of Faith”***

1 Peter 1:6-9

This life is full of difficulties, struggles, and negative circumstances that leave more questions than answers. There is no shortage of trials that bring us to the point of despair. But we must remember all is not lost, especially for those who follow Christ. There is something greater at work in our troubles, and we must place our confidence in the One who is working all things for our benefit.

Peter wrote on the subject of a believer’s joy early in his letter because his readers needed the reminder and the encouragement as they faced severe persecution. We must also be reminded and encouraged by his words.

We have learned from Peter as followers of Jesus, that our eternal inheritance, our salvation, was initiated in the mind of God. It was motivated by His great love for us and paid for by Jesus on the cross. He supplied with us the power to overcome sin by His resurrection, and the Holy Spirit through sanctification is perfecting that eternal inheritance in us.

The truth of our salvation should bring us joy, even in the midst of pain. We must remember we are not of this world. We are being manufactured and prepared for the glory of our eternal inheritance.

Peter gives five perspectives on joy so believers can overcome even in the most adverse circumstances. He highlights the reality that joy derives from confidence in a protected inheritance, in a proven faith, in a promised honor, in a personal fellowship with Jesus, and in a present deliverance.

**** *We overcome difficulties because we have a confidence in our protected inheritance.***
(1 Peter 1:6a)

Verse 6a refers back (1:3-5) to all the factors that bring a Christian joy, namely their protected inheritance. “...**greatly rejoice**...” from the Greek, is an intense, expressive term that means to be supremely and abundantly happy - a happiness that is not tentative nor based on circumstances or superficial feelings.

**** *We overcome difficulties because of our confidence in a proven faith.***
(1 Peter 1:6b-7a)

Rather than allow severe trials and persecutions to steal their joy and spoil, their anticipation of future blessing in heaven, genuine believers with a biblical perspective know such sufferings actually can add to their joy. This happens as they experience grace during their suffering and anticipate their future glory.

**** We overcome difficulties because of a promised honor. (1 Peter 1:7b)**

In the first part of verse 7 Peter points to the testing that proves genuine faith. This leads to the main point, namely that believers should rejoice during difficulty because of our promised future honor. True faith will survive all of life's troubles and trails and will obtain eternal honor from God. True saving faith is seen in our enduring the difficulties, trials, persecutions, and suffering of this life; it will result in good works that will receive divine commendation.

**** We overcome difficulties because of the confidence in our personal fellowship with Christ. (1 Peter 1:8)**

Love and trust are the two crucial ingredients in any meaningful relationship. Here, Peter emphasizes those two aspects as essential to a believer's relationship with Christ and vital to the joy that results. We are to maintain a true love for and strong trust in Jesus, although we have not seen Him.

**** We overcome because of our confidence in a present deliverance. (1 Peter 1:9)**

Peter is not looking at the future but at the present; one could literally render **obtaining** as "**presently receiving for yourselves.**" Flowing out of a believer's personal relationship with Christ is the result due them, "**...the present outcome of their faith, namely the salvation of their souls.**"

The "**...salvation...**" refers to a believer's constant, present deliverance from the penalty and power of sin - from its guilt, condemnation, wrath, ignorance, distress, confusion, hopelessness, and dominion.

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