

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

Salvation Joy 1 Peter 1:6-9 Part Four

It has been three weeks since we have considered First Peter. Hopefully you have not forgotten all that we have discussed. Hopefully you remember that Peter is writing this epistle to these gentile Christians scattered throughout the area of present day Turkey in order to help them to respond righteously to suffering.

We are presently examining **1 Peter 1:6-9**. Let us take the next few moments and read this passage. **“In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, (7) that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ (8) and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, (9) obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.”**

These believers were rejoicing even in the midst of trials. Throughout scripture we find joy to be the experience of the righteous.

Ps. 4:7 “Thou hast put gladness in my heart.....”

Ps. 5:11 “But let all who take refuge in Thee be glad, Let them ever sing for joy; and mayest thou shelter them that those who love Thy name may exult in Thee.

Ps. 32:11 “Be glad in the Lord and rejoice you righteous ones, and shout for joy all you who are upright in heart.”

Ps. 43:3,4 “O send out Thy light and Thy truth, let them lead me; Let them bring me to Thy holy hill, and to Thy dwelling places. (4) Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy; and upon the lyre I shall praise Thee, O God, my God.”

The presence of joy in the lives of the righteous stands as a dramatic testimony to the power of Gospel to change lives. When we put our faith in Christ alone for our salvation and are born again our thinking will change. Our new way of thinking is what in reality produces the joy that sets us apart from the world..... Peter in **1 Peter 1:6-9** gives to us a sampling of this new way of thinking. In this passage we find five different aspects of joy that are related to our salvation that hopefully will fill our minds and spill over into our hearts producing joy.

1) JOY COMES FROM THE CERTAINTY OF SALVATION. Let us look at **V. 6 “In this you greatly rejoice.....”** What does the **“in this”** refer to? It refers us back to the basic idea presented to us in **VV. 4-5** which was the “certainty of salvation for those who have placed their faith in Christ.” And this leads us to the next truth which when reflected on produces joy.

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2) JOY COMES FROM A PROVEN FAITH. Let us look at V. 7 “**that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.** We understand from what has already been shared that for those who place their faith in Christ that their salvation is secure but how do we know if are faith is genuine? One of the most convincing tests for determining whether or not our faith is genuine is when it is put into the crucible of fire. If rather than being burned up it is in fact purified we can be reasonably assured that it is genuine. And we can then be assured that certainly when all is said and done we will in fact be delivered into the presence of the Lord. And this leads us to the next thought we will produce joy in our lives.

3. JOY COMES FROM A PROMISED FUTURE BLESSING. Let us look at the end of V. 7 “**.....that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**” Those whose faith has been tested and found to be genuine has this future hope. The hope of at the revelation of Jesus Christ (rapture) of receiving praise (verbal commendation), glory (manifestation of all that we are), and honor (rewards).

This morning we will be adding several more truths that our joy producing as we choose to think on them.

JOY COMES FROM A MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP

The source of joy which is most sweet of all is found in V. 8 “**and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.**” You will remember that Peter was writing people who were in the area of modern day Turkey. Certainly, very few, if any of these people had a face to face encounter with Jesus. But though they had not had a face to face encounter with Jesus two things were true of them in respect to their relationship with Christ.

First of all we see that though they had not seen Jesus they loved Him, “**And though you have not seen Him (Jesus), you love Him.**” The word for “love” is the Greek word, “AGAPE.” This is the word that is used to describe God’s love for us. An unconditional love, not based in feeling but in commitment. Then in addition to this we find that though they had not seen Jesus they trusted Him, “**and though you do not see Him now you believe in Him.**” The word translated “believe” is the Greek word “PISTEUO.” It means, “to be persuaded,” hence “to place confidence in, or to trust.”

If we are going to have strong relationships both of these factors need to be present.

If love, AGAPE love, is not present in our relationships those relationships are vulnerable to our feelings toward that individual. If that individual disappoints us we very well may cease to serve him.. If we perceive him as having failed us we may no longer be willing to express care for them. If AGAPE love is absent the relationship will not be able to remain strong in the midst of disappointment. AGAPE LOVE is absolutely essential to any vital, long term relationship.

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Now if we add belief or trust to that relationship it only becomes that much more dynamic. If we have chosen to serve a person that we believe in or trust in, that service comes much easier.

Those Peter was writing had come to the point in their relationship with Christ that both of these things were present even though they had never seen him. Though they had never seen Christ they loved Him and they trusted Him. This is incredible. Are there many people that you have never met who you are personally committed to in the way that is being described here? I would be extremely surprised if there were.

This is not a typical experience. In fact this is very difficult to pull off even when you have a flesh and blood person right in front of you. If you don't believe me consider Peter as a case in point. Of all the disciples, it was Peter alone who had been individually confronted by Jesus with the question, "Do you love me?" **John 21:15-17.** Of all the disciples, it was Peter alone who had been personally rebuked by Jesus for his lack of faith in **Matt. 14:31.**

Peter had seen Jesus, and loved him, perhaps imperfectly but he loved Him. Does it amaze Peter that distant and scattered Gentiles who had never seen Jesus also know and love Him? Peter well knows that it is not his physical association with Jesus that produces a love and trust of the savior. Our love for and our belief in Jesus is a gift. Peter certainly knows this. Remember the words of Jesus to Peter after Peter's great confession of faith. Jesus said him in **Matt. 16:17** "**Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.**"

Through God's gift of faith, people who have never seen Jesus, may share with Peter in loving him. It is not necessary for us to have been in Galilee with Jesus. Through the witness of Peter and the other apostles we learn about what Jesus said and did. The Father then takes the words of the Apostles and applies them to our hearts through the ministry of the Holy Spirit so that we can come to know and love the Lord. So that we might have an intimate and meaningful relationship.

The world does not understand this. Many professing "Christians" do not understand this. They compartmentalize their Christianity and treat it as a belief structure. It is not a belief structure it is a personal relationship with Christ based in love and trust.

As we experience this kind of relationship with our resurrected and living lord it produces what? JOY. Look at the end of **V. 8** "**..... you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.**" Because of this relationship there is a present tense joy. Not a joy that "will be" but a joy that is true in the here and now. It certainly is in some sense anticipating the future revealing of Jesus which was referred to at the end of **V. 7** but clearly the joy is in the present tense.

This present tense joy is referred to as "inexpressible." Literally it means "unable to speak out." It appears that the point is that this joy is inexpressible in that it defies outward circumstances and thus is hard to explain and is rooted in a realm that is beyond our physical experience.

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The joy is also referred to as being full of “**glory**”, a joy that has already been glorified, not in the sense that they already experience the fullness of glory of the revelation of Jesus Christ, but in the sense that in their love and commitment to Christ they experience a joy that partakes of and anticipates the final day of salvation.

There is another aspect of salvation that brings us joy. Let us look at **V. 9 “obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of souls.”**

JOY FROM PRESENT DELIVERANCE

When we initially read this phrase we might immediately think of an aspect of salvation which is yet future but really the primary thought appears to be an aspect of salvation which is being experienced this side of heaven.

As they are presently loving and trusting their living Lord, experiencing this joy which is inexpressible (hard to explain) and full of glory (partakes of and anticipates the future glory) they will receive the goal of their faith in the here and now. Why would we see this as a present tense byproduct of their love and service? If you look at the verb “obtaining” you will discover that it is a present tense participle. This is not something that is happening in the future that is totally disconnected from what is happening in the present.

In N.T. thought, to say “I have been saved” is incomplete without a present tense of continuing deliverance or disentanglement from the clutches of sin (“I am being saved”) and a future sense of final deliverance at Christ’s revelation (“I will be saved”).

The desire for this process to move forward in this life until it culminates in future glory is very much at the heart of every believer..... **Phil. 3:7-14.**

This is what Peter has in view in this passage as he speaks of “obtaining” the outcome of their faith. As they continue their present intimate and meaningful relationship with Christ they will be in the process of being delivered from sin which will ultimately culminate at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Certainly this continuing process of deliverance is a source of joy in the lives of those who desire to be like Jesus. Ultimately our daily transformation into the likeness of Jesus is continually moving us to higher ground.

CONCLUSION

When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and savior. We are set free from simply finding joy in the circumstances of our lives. We now have the opportunity to find our joy in what we have come to believe. We now have the opportunity to find joy in truths associated with our salvation.

1. We find joy coming from the certainty of salvation.... **“In this you greatly rejoice”**

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2. We find joy coming from proven faith, “..... **even though now for a little while if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials (7) that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even tested by fire may be found**”

3. We find joy coming from future blessing, “..... **to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**”

4. We find joy coming from a present meaningful relationship with Christ..... (8) “**And though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,...**”

5. We find joy in our continuing deliverance from sin..... “**obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.**”

Let us be set apart as a people who find joy not primarily from our circumstances but from our faith. What we believe about the Lord Jesus Christ and What He has done our our behalf.