

16 January 2021

1 Peter 1:3-9 – How can we rejoice through this coming year?

Thank God for your salvation

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice though now for a little while..."

- You are saved by God's great mercy
- You are guarded by God's great power
- Spiritual rejoicing is different from other forms of celebration

⁸ 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,

⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Question 1: What is spiritual rejoicing?

Question 2: What is the difference between God's great mercy and God's great power?

Question 3: How does thankfulness affect our spiritual life?

Face difficulty in God's strength

⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ 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 honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- They are temporary
- They are necessary
- Their pain is recognised
- Tested faith is valued by God
- Tested faith will bring great reward

Question 4: In what way might suffering and trials be "necessary"?

Question 5: Why is tested faith more valuable than untested faith?

Question 6: What kind of reward is promised in v7?

Question 7: How should this passage change our attitude and actions over this coming year?

Prayer

Loving Heavenly Father, thank you that these words of divine inspiration from Holy Spirit prepared your people to stand firm in very testing circumstances, which you knew were just round the corner. I do not know what this year will bring, but I ask that you will help me face in a way that that is obedient and honouring to you. Help me give thanks for my salvation, face all difficulties in your strength, and in a way that is not dependent on my circumstances, rejoice. Amen.