

1 Peter 1:7

Trials are necessary

- Remember the audience to whom Peter is writing, the chosen exiles in Asia Minor. These people have and will continue to have trials of many kinds.
- Peter reminds them that even though the trials and hardships they are facing may seem “unfair to them,” no trial is without purpose. They are necessary to the believer.
- We must change our thoughts on trials. We must be encouraged and know that the trials that come to us are necessary for sanctification and the refining of our faith.

More precious than gold

Gold has been one of the most coveted and valuable substances throughout the history of human civilizations. It is sought after and considered to be of the highest value. However, the faith of the believer is more precious and valuable than gold!

Gold is valuable and precious here on earth but is also perishable. Our faith that is given to us as fruit of our regeneration is more valuable and is non-perishable. The faith of the elect is not lost, but rather is forever as it is a gift from God which means our faith is irrevocable (**Romans 11:29**)

Purpose of trials

Peter states that one of the purposes of trials is to test and refine our faith by the fire of trials to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Gold is placed in the fire to purify and remove impurities. Gold becomes more valuable and precious as it undergoes the heat of the flame. So is the case with our faith as it undergoes the testing by fire via trials, it will become more precious and purer.

- **James 1:2-4** Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various ^[a]trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces ^[a]endurance. ⁴ And let ^[a]endurance have *its* perfect ^[a]result, so that you may be ^[a]perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
- **Romans 8:18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.
- **2 Corinthians 4:16-18** Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Let us begin to consider the plan and the purpose of God in all our trials. Let us move our thoughts from “why” and “this is unfair” to “thank you” and “your will be done.”

- We may have been treated unfairly by people in our lives, but even in the middle of darkness trial, we have never been treated unfairly by God. (Consider the story of Job)
- We as believers have the comfort and the assurance that every trial that we face comes from God as He ordains all things that come to pass and His purpose and will is always good!
 - *Consider the story of Joseph.* He faced many trials at the hands of many people including his brothers. However, all that happened to Joseph was ordained by God. In Genesis 50:20 we see Joseph’s response:
 - **Gen 50:20** As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about ^[a]this present result, to preserve many people alive.
 - **Romans 8:28** And we know that ^[a]God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

Peter is telling them the trials are coming and that the trials are necessary, but for them to remember what he had just told in the preceding verses: rejoice, you were born again to a living hope and have an inheritance that is being kept for you in Heaven. This world is temporary, but your inheritance is imperishable, undefiled, and will never fade away!

God values your faith more than your temporary comfort, so know that the trials will come! God loves His children and values their faith so much that He will put them in the crucible to refine it!