

## 1 Peter 1:8-12

### You have never seen Him- Faith (verse 8)

- Peter says, “you have never seen Him”. He cannot say that since he has seen Christ.
- Peter has a Trinitarian experience with God:
  - He heard the Father (Matthew 17:5)
  - He walked with the Son (See the Gospels, see also 2 Peter 1:16-21)
  - He was indwelt and led by the Spirit (Acts 2)
- We as humans are creatures who desire the proof of something to believe. If someone tells us something, our natural tendency is to say, “I’ll believe it when I see it.” It’s in our nature to need to see the evidence and proof of something to believe it, especially when the claims are extraordinary.
- To believe something or someone that you have never seen and then to love that person goes against our nature and that is why believing and loving God is supernatural.
- *Since you have never seen Him, Why do you love Him?* Because He first loved you (1 John 4:7, 10, 19) and as a result of the being born again by the unilateral and sovereign will of God, He has changed the disposition of your will and your mind, taken out the heart of stone and replaced it with a heart of flesh, and given you affection for Him and for the Gospel! No unregenerate heart loves God.
- When we are born again or regenerated, God gives us the faith to believe (Phil 1:29). We then take this faith and place it into Christ, believing that He is the Yahweh and has been raised from the dead which brings about justification and salvation.
- We are justified by faith alone (Sola fide): Romans 3:28, Romans 5:1, Galatians 3:24
- The righteous man shall live by faith (Romans 1:17)

### Not just Thomas

- Thomas will ever be known to the Christian world as “doubting Thomas” for his one moment of doubt. We should be thankful that we are labeled according to one sin that we have committed. If that were the case what would our names be?
- The Bible records that Thomas was not the only one to doubt. When Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection, He reproached the 11 disciples for unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.
- Blessed are those who have not seen and believed: John 20:25-29

### Faith is linked to Hope

- We know that the hope of this world and the hopes spoken of in the Bible are not the same. The hope of the Bible and the promises of God are of full assurance to the believer. Faith is linked to this assurance which is an anchor for the soul.
- Hebrews 11:1 **Now faith is the <sup>[a]</sup>assurance of things <sup>[b]</sup>hoped for, the <sup>[c]</sup>conviction of things not seen.**
- Peter will remind the exiles that although they see the trials and the wickedness of this world, they are to look to things that they have never seen but believe are true and will come to pass (the inheritance).

## Greatly rejoicing

- Peter links faith and the assurance of our inheritance with joy that is inexpressible and full of glory!
- Joy is only something that a true Christian can experience since it is a fruit of the Spirit ([Gal 5:22](#))
- The exiles can put into words the hardships, struggles, and trials they are facing, but they cannot, and we cannot put into words the joy and glory that awaits the believer!
  - o [Psalm 16:11](#) You will make known to me the path of life;  
In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

## The outcome of your faith, salvation (verse 9)

Our salvation is a process. It has started with the God the Father choosing before the foundation of the world. It included a temporal time and place where He regenerated you and you placed faith in Him. He is continuing to save us through this life and He is reserving us for our inheritance. However, the outcome of our faith is the salvation of souls in Heaven as we are glorified! ([Romans 8:18-25](#))([Romans 13:11](#))

## Old Testament Prophets (verses 10-12)

The prophets in the Old Testament prophesied about the coming Messiah and the grace and salvation that was to come from Him. They looked and studied carefully into these truths as they believed and had faith they would occur, but they were unsure of when they would occur. They knew not only that suffering that was predicted would occur([Isaiah 53](#))([Luke 24:44-46](#)), but also knew of the glories to follow.

The prophets in the Old Testament would not get to see the Messiah and it was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but to those who would see the Messiah as well as those who would read the written accounts of Him. When the coming of the Messiah had taken place, then the people could look back to the words of the prophets and what the prophets had spoken about, just as we can today. The Old Testament believers had faith that Christ was to come and New Testament believers have faith that He has come. The OT looks forward to the cross and we look back to the cross.

## Angels long to look

- Not only did the OT prophets look into and inquire about these things, so did the angels.
- Angels rejoice over one soul that repents ([Luke 15:10](#)).
- They rejoice as the redemptive plan of God is unfolding.
- They rejoice as the harvest of God comes in.
- They rejoice in the salvation of souls.
- Angels are in the presence of God and have seen the depths of His glory.
- However, they have never or will never experience salvation.
- The believers will sing a song that the angels cannot learn([Revelation 14:3](#))