

1 Peter

Week 1: Chosen for Hope

Scripture

1 Peter 1:1-12

Motivation

What immediately comes to your mind when I say the word *suffering*? Let's just give the word a simple definition, "*the state of undergoing pain, distress, or hardship.*"

Depending on your season of life, suffering can take on many forms...

- Physical – when your body is in pain
- Mental/Emotional – when your heart and mind are troubled
- Spiritual – when we are wrestling with God through a circumstance
- Consequential – when hardship come from within or without

1 Peter 3:17 (ESV) For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

- ✓ When I'm at fault for sin against someone else (doing evil)
- ✓ When others are hostile against me when I obey Christ (doing good)

1 Peter is a relevant book wherever the church is suffering.

Let's set some background for Peter's letter...

Who Wrote It?

- The letter identifies Peter as its writer (1 Peter 1:1)
- Possibly written with the help of a secretary/courier, Silvanus, mentioned in 5:12

What is the historical time and date?

- Likely written from Rome between A.D. 60–65, during the reign of Emperor Nero
- During a time of growing hostility toward Christians in the Roman Empire
- May have been near the end of Peter's life (martyrdom around A.D. 64–68)

What is the purpose of Peter's writing?

- To primarily Gentile believers scattered across Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) facing persecution rejection, and social pressure for their faith
- To encourage them to remain steadfast in Christ, to live holy lives in a hostile culture, and to endure suffering with hope

Peter will say to his readers (and us), "*Your trials won't last forever—but God's promises always will.*"

Information

What was the current circumstance of Peter's audience?

- They were living as exiles

1 Peter 1:1 (ESV) Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia...

✓ *To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion*

“Dispersion here is used in referring to spiritual pilgrims, aliens to the earth, whether Jews or Gentiles (the church).” – John MacArthur

Have you ever felt out of place in your own community or family? Peter reminds us—that's not the end of the story.

✓ *...in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia*

“Peter says nothing about these Christians suffering physically for their faith. The focus is on the verbal abuse and discrimination they receive because of their Christian commitment.” – ESV Study Bible



What was their hope during suffering?

- Even in exile, God never lost sight of them (and He never loses sight of us)

1 Peter 1:2 (ESV) ...according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

✓ *According to the foreknowledge of God the Father* (belonged to God)

✓ *In the sanctification of the Spirit* (set apart as a holy people indwelt by the Spirit)

✓ *For obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood* (leads to obedience, which is rooted in the forgiveness in Christ)

- They had a future planned for them

1 Peter 3:3 (ESV) 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.

✓ **A New Birth** (through Christ's death and resurrection there is eternal life)

✓ **An Inheritance** (nothing can separate us from the inheritance of heaven)

If inheritance is certain, how can that change how we face today's hardship?

✓ **Full Salvation** (God protects believers by sustaining their faith to the end)

- Their suffering would be temporary

1 Peter 1:6 (ESV) 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 honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Suffering is not random—it is shaped by the Father, refined by the Spirit, and made meaningful because of Christ’s victory over sin and death.

How was it possible for them to have hope without *seeing* it?

What is **hope**? *A certainty in God's promises, grounded in His unchanging character and faithfulness, leading us to stability, joy, and courageous perseverance.*

- *Seeing* is not equal to hope

1 Peter 1:8 (ESV) 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. “Peter knew that though he had seen Jesus (both before and after the resurrection) most every Christian in the early church had not seen Jesus. Nevertheless, they loved Him. Jesus was no less real because they had not seen Him.” – David Guzik

- Salvation is not built on sight, but faith

1 Peter 1:10 (ESV) Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, **11** inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. **12** It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

In this section, Peter looks at salvation from the viewpoint of the divine agents who made it possible...

- ✓ **OT Prophets** (They studied their own writings to know more about this promised salvation. They believed they were forgiven from sin by the Promised Savior, but didn’t fully understand what was involved in the life/death of Jesus)
- ✓ **The Holy Spirit** (The Holy Spirit indwelled the writers of the OT, who empowered them to write about future salvation)
- ✓ **The NT Apostles** (They proclaimed that the OT prophecies had been fulfilled)
- ✓ **The Angels** (They longed to learn and know God’s plan of salvation of man)

Application

In 1 Peter 1:1–12, Peter reminds believers that their identity and hope are anchored in God’s eternal plan.

We are chosen by the Father, set apart by the Spirit, and redeemed by the Son.

Because of Jesus’ resurrection, we have a living hope and an eternal inheritance that cannot fade.

Trials in this life test and strengthen our faith, producing joy that rests not in circumstances but in Christ Himself. Even prophets and angels longed to see the salvation that we now experience.

How Should We Respond?

- ***Anchor yourself in hope***—wake up tomorrow and proclaim, ‘My future is secure in Christ.’
- ***Rethink your trials***—ask, “*What is God forming in me right now?*”
- ***Practice joy***—sing, pray, or speak gratitude, even when you don’t feel it.
- ***Live with perspective***—prophets dreamed of what you have. Angels long to see it. Don’t take it lightly.

This should point us to Christ...

His blood redeems us.

His resurrection gives us a living hope.

His power secures our eternal inheritance.

His presence sustains us through trials.

The prophets longed for Him, the angels marvel at Him, and by faith we rejoice in Him.

Christ is both the source and the substance of our hope.