



7/1/26

Today's passage is one I know well, but am blown away every time I study it because there's so much to it that I can never grasp it all in one sitting. It's kind of like going to Disney World. You can spend the whole day there, but there's still always more to see. Only this is better. In studying God's word, there are no long lines. Hahaha! And also... it's God's word! Exponentially better than any theme park!!!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

1 Peter 1:1-12

Oh my goodness! There is SO MUCH in this passage!!! I'm gonna jump right in!!! I don't want to miss a thing!

Vs. 1-2 ~ "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 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."

Oh my goodness!!! There's so much there in just 2 verses! Peter is writing to believers who have been scattered from their homes because of their faith in Jesus. He wants to encourage them. Truly, ALL believers are "strangers and exiles on the earth" (Hebrews 11:13), because our true home is in heaven. How are we called "elect exiles", chosen believers in Christ? Because...

- *God has known us before the beginning of time. According to Romans 8:29, He "foreknew us and predestined us to be conformed to the image of Jesus." It is God's will that I am called His child.*
- *The Holy Spirit has sealed me as a believer in Christ, and now He is sanctifying me to carry out the Father's plan to transform my life so that I become like Jesus.*
- *The Holy Spirit is sanctifying me so that I can obey Jesus. Jesus said His commands are not burdensome. It's only as the Holy Spirit transforms me that I find that to be*

true. Without sanctification, I am deceived and I believe that what my flesh wants is actually what's best for me. So in my flesh, I fight against Jesus. Praise His name, He does not leave me in that delusion!!!

- *Because I am in Christ, I have been sprinkled with His blood. His blood cleanses me. The sprinkling of His blood is for my cleansing so that I have confidence to come into His presence.*

With all that hope, I can only imagine that Peter couldn't help but shout his next words. (The end of his letter tells me that he was dictating his words to "Sylvanus, a faithful brother".)

Vs. 3-5 ~ "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, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

Again! A mouthful!!!! Why bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ?

- *He is so merciful!!!! How merciful? While I was His enemy, a weak, ungodly sinner, He CAUSED me to be born again. My old self was crucified with Christ so that I could be a new creation in Christ.*
- *Because of His mercy, I have a LIVING hope. Because Jesus rose from the dead and is alive on His throne, I have the confident expectation of my eternity with Him.*
- *My eternity with the Lord is the inheritance that's waiting for me. It is imperishable... incorruptible and eternal. It is undefiled... nothing can stain it. No amount of uncleanness ever caused Jesus to be unclean. He makes the unclean clean. It is unfading... unlike the pictures in a photo album, my inheritance will never yellow or fade. This is waiting for me when I am no longer a stranger on this earth, but a forever citizen and child of heaven. God is guarding this inheritance, and the Holy Spirit who has sealed me and dwells in me is my guarantee that it's coming.*
- *But God doesn't stop there. He also continually guards me while I remain on this earth. The only thing I bring to the table is my faith, and even that is a gift from Him.*
- *This is why my faith is so important. This is why God gives me the shield of faith. My faith in His power protects me so that I put all my hope and confidence in knowing that one day God will take me home where I will experience the fullness of my salvation!!!! I NEED that hope because right now, I live as a stranger and exile in this broken world. O Lord, please help me never to view this world as my home. That will mess up my hope and my faith.*

Vs. 6-7~ "In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 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."

Yes, as I consider my hope in the Lord, I do rejoice! I would like the sentence to just stop there!!! But Jesus prayed to the Father on the night He was arrested, "I do not ask that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one" (John 17:15). Ugh! It sure seems like the evil is able to get to me... but that's not really what's happening. God is using the trials of this world... only as necessary... to test my faith so that it grows, so that as I "suffer in the flesh, I will cease from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God" (1 Peter 4:1-2). God's goal is not my happiness, but my holiness... my righteousness... my peace... my joy... my hope. That comes through trials. Trials grieve. Yes. But the fire refines. The result is a proven genuine faith that brings me to the LORD while He says to me, "WELL DONE! I HONOR YOU HERE NOW IN MY PRESENCE! I AM SO PROUD TO WELCOME YOU HOME." Is there anything better than that???

I appreciate when people tell me they think of well of me. But there's something so much more special about hearing my mom or my dad tell me they're proud of me. I think God does that so that I can understand HIS pleasure in me as my heavenly Father. Someday I will hear my Father in heaven say that He's pleased with me.

O Lord, I pray that I will rejoice in my trials!!! That is so hard!!! But please remind me that every trial will expose something terrible in me that needs to go. Every trial will help me to be more and more like Jesus if I will just let You do Your work in me. Help me to be assured that even the attempts of the devil to ruin me become tools in Your hands to refine me. You who are in me are greater than he who is in the world.

Vs. 8-9 ~ "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, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls."

Sometimes I grieve that I can't see the Lord or hear His voice right now. I don't think I realize how severe the curse is that came in because of Adam and Eve's rebellion. They had the beautiful pleasure of walking with Jesus, talking with Jesus, and hearing Jesus. The curse of sin and death delayed the possibility of having that pleasure... Jesus came to restore our relationship with the Lord. And Revelation 22:3-5 explains that I WILL get to see His face someday. It says of the day when we get to be home with the Lord forever, "No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will worship Him. They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever."

O Lord, I can't see You right now, but I will. I can't hear Your beautiful voice as You sing over me (Zephaniah 3:17), but I will. Until then, I absolutely do love You and I do believe in You. As I remember the hope I have in You, that I AM obtaining the outcome of trusting You... my

salvation forever, I rejoice with inexpressible joy filled with glory.

How do I know if I am truly putting my faith in You wholeheartedly and living with the hope of eternity in You... not getting caught up in the here and now, thinking that this life on earth is supposed to be my heaven? Two things... 1. I will long to be with You. 2. I will have inexpressible joy because I know it's just a matter of time until I'm with You. O Lord, I can't wait to see Your face!!! I can't wait to hear Your voice... every day for the rest of eternity!!! Praise Your name!

Vs. 10-12 ~ "Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 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."

I am so thankful for the Holy Spirit. His hands are all over everything. He seals me. He leads me. He changes me. He is so kind that He revealed the truth of who Jesus is to prophets who came before me over thousands of years. They didn't get to see Jesus in their lifetime. They didn't understand all they were writing as the Holy Spirit led them. But they knew they were honoring the Lord and serving the people yet to come... like me. Through the Holy Spirit, they were able to preach the good news of Jesus. And through the Holy Spirit, I have been sealed as one who will get to experience the good news for all eternity.

O Lord, please help me to remember who I am in Christ. Help me to remember how I got here. Help me to view my trials through Your perfect, holy lens. Help me to welcome the trials if it means they will refine me so that I'm more like Jesus. Help me to put all my hope in You and eternity with You. Help me to celebrate all that You are. You are so worthy.