

STAND

Pastor Bill Bowers | June 24, 2018

Faith In Trials

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:1-12

“This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to God’s chosen people who are living as foreigners in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.” 1 Peter 1:1 (NLT)

parepidēmos—exiles, sojourners, aliens, strangers, foreigners

“So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine.” 1 Peter 1:6-7a (NLT)

FALSE FAITH

- **Inherited** faith
- **Shallow** faith
- **Conditional** faith

How does God use your trials?

1) Trials **reveal** your faith. (1 Peter 1:7)

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” Luke 22:31-32 (NIV)

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” James 1:2-4 (NIV)

2) Trials draw you **closer** to **God**. (1 Peter 1:8-9)

HOMEGROUP & PERSONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

1. In Peter's opening remarks (greeting), he refers to his reader-listeners as "God's chosen people who are living as foreigners." In what ways do you think this statement may or may not apply to believers today? What do you think is the implication of "living as a foreigner?"
2. Also found in the greeting of Peter is another strong statement; "God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:2 NLT). Do you believe this is true? Why or why not? What bearing does it have on your faith and the way you live out your daily obedience to the Jesus way?
3. In 1 Peter 1:4-5 (NLT) we read that God has a priceless inheritance—kept in heaven and through your faith, God is protecting you until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day. How do you interpret this statement? What does it mean to you personally regarding your practical Christian existence?
4. Does it bother you that your faith may be continually tested through trials (1 Peter 1:6-7)? Explain your answer.
5. How do you understand Peter when he writes, "The reward for trusting him (Jesus) will be the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:9 NLT)?
6. Pastor Bill spoke of 3 types of false faith (inherited faith, shallow faith, and conditional faith). Do you think these "faiths" are truly faith at all? What kind of faith do you have? Does the way you live out your life reflect the faith you profess having? Explain your responses.