



## Lesson #4: Obedient Hope (1 Peter 1:13)

A divine paradox is placed before us in Scripture. Somehow believers can know \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ at the same time. Those who really know the Lord are capable of having joy while living in tribulation. How is that possible? How is it that we can \_\_\_\_\_ while \_\_\_\_\_?

Peter writes to these “*strangers scattered*” (1:1) and he remarks that even though they were living in persecution yet they were still rejoicing. The words “rejoice” Peter uses in verse 6 is the very same word used in Revelation 19:7 to describe the marriage supper of the lamb. But notice the paradox being unfolded. “*Ye rejoice ... though ... ye are in \_\_\_\_\_*” (1:6). Peter is saying that they are rejoicing while living in the heaviness of trials. How did that happen?

The Spirit of God uses Peter, in this text, to share with us the secret that allow the saints to smile while they are suffering. This secret comes in four parts.

### 1. You Can Rejoice in Trials Because They Are Always \_\_\_\_\_

The genuine believer comes to understand that it is in God’s plan that suffering be seasonal. The word “*season*” (1:6) cannot be overlooked. It speaks literally of a \_\_\_\_\_ while. What Peter is saying is though trials are very real and the suffering of that time may be very severe, yet it is only seasonal.

“*For our light affliction, which is but for a \_\_\_\_\_, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory*” (2 Corinthians 4:17).

### 2. You Can Rejoice in Trials Because They Are Always \_\_\_\_\_

There’s a little phrase that pops up in verse 6 that we best not read by: “*Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, \_\_\_\_\_.*” (1:6)

You see, when sufferings come they come out of \_\_\_\_\_. H.A. Ironside said, “There is need for every trial that a Christian is called upon to endure.” Have you have thought about the different ways that trials are needful? Time will not allow us to go through all of them but let me give you a few this morning.

- **Suffering is needful that we might learn \_\_\_\_\_ ways** (Psalm 119:71)
- **Suffering is needful because it builds Christian \_\_\_\_\_** (Romans 5:3)

- **Suffering is needful that we may learn to \_\_\_\_\_ others** (2 Corinthians 1:4)
- **Suffering is needful that we might be \_\_\_\_\_ by God** (Hebrews 12:6)

### 3. You Can Rejoice in Trials Because They Are Always \_\_\_\_\_

I circled the word “*manifold*” in my Bible because it reminds us of how personal suffering can be. The word “*manifold*” means “\_\_\_\_\_” or “varied.” Remember that word in the context of trials and go to 1 Peter 4:10 where we read, “... *As good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*” That is the only other time this word “*manifold*” is used in 1 Peter.

- **Trial are Manifold** – They are of various colors and various textures ever so personally given.
- **God’s Grace is Manifold** – His grace is ever so perfectly and personally matched to the trials that come into our lives.

God custom coordinates the trials that believers endure for their betterment and for their beautifying. God has a way of customizing these manifold trials and our life is but a weaving of them.

### 4. You Can Rejoice in Trials Because They Are Always \_\_\_\_\_

We come to discover in this text that suffering is \_\_\_\_\_. The 7<sup>th</sup> verse says that this trial will come to be a note of praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. Peter is literally beginning to catalogue for us all the benefits of the trials that we endure. How precious these sufferings then are for in them the Lord becomes more precious.

Just as surely as a goldsmith melts the gold so the impurities rise to the top and are skimmed off, even so the 7<sup>th</sup> verse says that we are being tried with fire just like gold. The goal of the goldsmith was to so purify the gold that he could look down and see his reflection in it. So to, our God is seeking to purify us so that one day he can look down and see our \_\_\_\_\_ reflected in our lives.

“*Yet He knows the way that I have taken; when He has tested me, I will emerge as pure \_\_\_\_\_*” (Job 23:10). Here is a mysterious paradox indeed. Somehow through the trials that God brings my way I am able to bring him more glory!

### Concluding Thoughts

Dear Christian friend, I don’t know what the burden is that you are bearing this morning but I do know the one who can \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_. I’ve learned a secret to this paradox. In the Word of God we find a lively hope for we find that God has given to us a perspective that is unknown by the world. **Because God is \_\_\_\_\_ over suffering you can \_\_\_\_\_ in your trials.**