

**“Rejoicing in Faith”
1 Peter 1:3-8**

Big Idea – Faith enables us to rejoice in trials because it sees more!

Bend in The Road

**When we feel we have nothing left to give
And we are sure that the song has ended
When our day seems over and the shadows fall
And the darkness of night has descended.**

**Where can we go to find the strength
To valiantly keep on trying,
Where can we find the hand that will dry
The tears that the heart is crying.**

**There's but one place to go and that is to God
And, dropping all pretense and pride,
We can pour out our problems without restraint
And gain strength from Him at our side.**

**And together we stand at life's crossroads
And view what we think is the end
But God has a much bigger vision
And He tells us it's only a bend.**

**For the road goes on and is smoother
And the pause in the song is a rest
And the part that's unsung and unfinished
Is the sweetest and richest and best.**

**So rest and relax and grow stronger
Let go and let God share your load
Your work is not finished or ended,
You've just come to a bend in the road.**

- Helen Steiner Rice

How is this possible? Is it possible to rejoice, even in a disruptive moment, at a bend in the road, during the trials of faith?

1 Peter 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In God's great mercy he has caused us to be born again into a living hope, because Jesus Christ rose from the dead,

4 We have an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revealing of Jesus Christ,

8 You have not seen Christ, but still you love him. You cannot see him now, but you believe in him. So you rejoice with a joy that cannot be explained, a joy full of glory.

Some truths that enable us to rejoice in faith, no matter the circumstances.

1. We have a living hope since Christ is alive – vs. 3

1 Peter 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In God's great mercy he has caused us to be born again into a living hope, because Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

Mankind today is without God and “without hope” (Eph. 2:12);

yet the believer has a living hope because he has a living Savior

1 Tim. 1:1 “...and from the Lord Jesus Christ our hope.”

The Christian does not work for this hope; it is a part of his spiritual birthright.

We are born again (John 3:5) into this living hope.

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure (Hebrews 6:18, 19).

Hebrews 6:18 “So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us.

19 This hope is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls. It leads us through the curtain into God's inner sanctuary.”

There is nothing more Christian than hope. Along with faith and love, it is one of the three principle graces of the Christian life (1 Corinthians 13:13).

We are a people who are “saved by hope” (Romans 8:24) and who live “resting on the hope of eternal life” (Titus 1:2).

and we look for His soon-expected return – Titus 2:12, 13 “that blessed hope”

Practical application means we have confidence, need not worry, and can Rejoice!

2. Our lasting inheritance is reserved in heaven – vs. 4

This hope is not only a living hope; it is a lasting hope (vv. 4-5).

4 We have an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

It is reserved in heaven, where it cannot decay (“incorruptible”), be defiled, or lose its beauty and delight

A guaranteed reservation – do you have one?

3. We are guarded by God’s power through faith – vs. 5

1 Peter 1:5 “...who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

But not only is the hope reserved; the believer too is kept (guarded as by a soldier) by the Lord!

We are kept by God’s power because of the faith we have placed in Him.

2 Tim. 1:12 “...I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him

Eternal security is not based on the faith of men, but on the faithfulness of God.

However, until Christ returns, the believer must go through testing. A faith that cannot be tested cannot be trusted. Our suffering is but “for a season” as the Lord sees it (“if need be”—v. 6); but the glory will be forever.

4. Enduring through trials proves the value of our faith – vs. 7

7 These trials / troubles come to prove that your faith is pure. This purity of faith is worth more than gold, which can be proved to be pure by fire but will ruin. But the purity of your faith will bring you praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is shown to you.

8 You have not seen Christ, but still you love him. You cannot see him now, but you believe in him. So you are filled with a joy that cannot be explained, a joy full of glory.

Verse 7 compares the trial of our faith to the testing of gold. The word “trial” means “approval.” The comparison suggested by Dr. Kenneth Wuest is that of a prospector bringing ore in to be tested. The assayer gives him a certificate stating that the ore contains gold. The certificate is the approval of the ore, and this paper is worth much more than the little sample of ore that was tested.

In the same way our faith is tested, a “sample” at a time; and the approval of our faith means that there are more riches to follow.

7 “These trials / troubles come to prove that your faith is pure. This purity of faith is worth more than gold, which can be proved to be pure by fire but will ruin. But the purity of your faith will bring you praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is shown to you.”

The Lord has a specific manner of preparing His people for useful service. God desires to turn His children from rough, hard-edged stones into gems of gold and silver.

The refiner's fire can only accomplish its purposes when the heat is turned up to extraordinary temperatures. It breaks down the metal in order for it to become moldable and shapeable. Only when the temperatures reach this level can the work be fully accomplished. So it is in our lives.

Still, the Lord continues to purge all that is not of His righteousness out of our lives. This comes through trials that bring each of us to the end of ourselves in order that He may only reflect that which is Himself.

When God takes you through the refiner's fire, be encouraged because it is His overriding commitment to turn you from a rough, hard-edged stone to a precious metal.

He will do this through certain events in your workplace, your relationships, and other circumstances in your life. Even this Covid-19 Plague!
Our job is to avoid trying to blow out the fire.

Malachi 3:3 says: "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot then she thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver."

She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?"

He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy - when I see my image in it."

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you.

2 Corinthians 3:18 So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

5. We receive the end result of our faith at the revealing of Christ.

*1 Peter 1:8, 9 Though **you have not seen him**, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls*

"The Weaver"

Behind my life the Weaver stands, and works His wondrous will.

I leave it in His all-wise hands, and trust His perfect skill;

Should mystery enshroud His plan, and my short sight be dim,

I will not try the whole to scan, but leave each thread with Him.

Nor till the loom is silent, and the shuttles cease to fly,

Shall God unfold the pattern, and explain the reason why

The dark threads were as needful (In the Master's skillful hand)

As the threads of gold and silver in the pattern which He planned.

Big Idea – Faith enables us to rejoice in trials because it sees more!

It will be worth it all, when we see Jesus,

Life's trials will seem so small when we see Christ,

One glimpse of His dear face, all sorrows will erase,

So gladly run the race, 'Til we see Christ.

