

Keeping Your Eternal Perspective  
Video Bible Study | First Peter 1:6-7 | 4/3/20

**“What Do I See?” (Read the text)**

<sup>6</sup> “In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

**“What Does It Mean?” (Answer some questions)**

1. What is a pronoun? In v.6, what does the word “this” refer to?
2. In v.6, what does Peter identify as the first emotion experienced among the believers?
3. Referring to question #2—in light of the rest of v.6—why is this unusual?
4. In v.6, what is the second emotion experienced among the believers? How do we explain the presence of the answer to question #2 and #4 residing together at the same time? Which trial is Peter referring to (single or plural)? How long do these trials last?

Using the context, what kind of trials does Peter refer to? (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> A flat tire on the Oldsmobile	<input type="checkbox"/> Offensive mail in the church mailbox
<input type="checkbox"/> Anger because you won't attend a same-sex “wedding”	<input type="checkbox"/> You bought the wrong sugar for the cake you're baking
<input type="checkbox"/> Classmates make fun of the Bible in your backpack.	<input type="checkbox"/> Disowned by parents for baptism into Christ
<input type="checkbox"/> A doctor visit because of the flu	<input type="checkbox"/> Anger because you mistreated a friend

5. Our passage includes a “purpose statement” (hint: purpose statements begin with “so that”). What is it?
6. What image does Peter use to describe faith in v.7? What does his descriptive language teach us about faith? What does his descriptive language teach us about trials?
7. “Why do we suffer?” is a question we may ask at times in our lives. Today’s passage gives us one reason for suffering. What is it?

**“How will I apply the meaning to my life?” (Live for Christ!)**

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### **Digging Deeper: God’s sovereignty in suffering**

The grammar construction of v.6 (“if necessary”) speaks to a certainty. The NIV translates it this way: “though now.” It is not fate, chance, or bad luck that cause suffering. Later in 1 Peter, the Apostle writes suffering happens “according to the will of God” (4:19). At the same time, we don’t enjoy suffering or assign evil to God. *Tabletalk*, a devotional magazine, phrases it this way:

“God always has a good purpose for allowing suffering to come into our lives, but we do not always know what that purpose is. Yet, because we know the Lord is perfectly good (James 1:13–18), we trust that He will work all of the pain that we endure for our final good and His final glory. The better we know the character of our Creator, the better we will be able to trust in His goodness and grace in the midst of all our suffering.”

Peter’s readers will confirm: God uses suffering to work out His plan. Only the one true God could use something so painful to bring about good. Trust God’s sovereignty in your suffering.

“The school of life offers some difficult courses, but it is in the difficult class that one learns the most—especially when your teacher is the Lord Jesus Christ. The hardest lessons for me were in a cell with four walls. The cell in the prison at Scheveningen was six paces in length, two paces in breadth, with a door that could be opened only from the outside... After that time in prison, the entire world became my classroom.”

– Corrie Ten Boom, survivor of the Ravensbruck concentration camp