

# Lesson 4



## **LESSON OUTLINE:**

PRAY

READ

ENGAGE

ANSWER

CONNECT

HOMEWORK

## **READING:**

1 PETER 1

## **STUDY TEXT:**

1 PETER 1:6-7

## **THEME:**

OUR GREAT SALVATION  
(PART 4)

## **STUDY METHOD:**

Attributes of God  
Promises of God  
Principles for Life  
Lessons to Learn  
Examples to Follow

## **FURTHER STUDY:**

ROMANS 5:1-5  
1 PETER 5:8-11  
2 COR. 12:1-10

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

1 PETER 1:7

## **PRAYER & PRAISE:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## **JOY DURING TRIALS**

Verse 6 begins with, *“In this you rejoice...”* What is Peter referring to? The context helps us to understand that the apostle is referring to two things: (1) the salvation that is ours now on earth (*“the living hope”* v.3) and; (2) the salvation that is ours when we are finally glorified in heaven (v.5).

These precious truths were to strengthen the believers as they experienced *“various trials”*. To be a Christian at this time in the Roman Empire was to place a target on yourself. Many believers had already been killed by stoning, stabbing, and being torn apart by wild animals in the arenas as entertainment for the Emperor. What would you say to encourage these persecuted Christians? Peter says, *“rejoice in your salvation now, and all that is to come”* [paraphrase].

## **The Blessed Outcome of a Faith that is Tried**

Someone might ask, “what is the purpose of trials in the life of the believer?” Although we cannot answer that question completely because we do not know the specific purposes of God, we are told that trials test and strengthen our faith<sup>1</sup>, increase patience and perseverance<sup>2</sup>, and result in greater praise for the Lord.<sup>3</sup>

Trials and temptations should not be viewed negatively because they are the means of our sanctification. However, it is very difficult to view trials in a biblical way when we are in the midst of them. It takes a Spirit-filled Christian to trust in the unseen hand of God as He stokes the refining fire, so that our faith may be *“more precious than gold.”*

The ultimate purpose of trials in the Christian’s life is clearly stated in verse 7: *“to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”* This portion has two distinct aspects: (1) The believer’s commendation on judgment day when he stands before the Lord Jesus Christ, and; (2) the final, ultimate praise, honour and glory of Jesus Christ before whom we will cast our crowns at His coronation in heaven.

## **Summary**

If you are facing trials today you are in good company. The prophets, the apostles, the disciples, the Lord, and all genuine Christians down through the ages have faced immense opposition. In fact, Paul said, *“..all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”*<sup>4</sup> The only way to “ascend above the trials” is to keep the gospel of Jesus Christ at the forefront of your mind. Consider who you are now in Christ, and all that awaits beyond this temporary life.

<sup>1</sup> 1 Peter 1:7

<sup>2</sup> James 1:3

<sup>3</sup> 1 Peter 1:7

<sup>4</sup> 2 Timothy 3:12

Charles Haddon Spurgeon was a great preacher of the 19th century. The Lord took Him through many deep, dark, and depressive trials. Having come through one of the most difficult times of his life, Spurgeon said, *“Our infirmities become the black velvet on which the diamond of God’s love glitters all the more brightly.”*

### REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

1. How does reviewing the gospel and the truths about your own salvation help you when facing “various trials”?

---

---

---

2. Read Hebrews 11:32-12:2. According to chapter 12:2 how shall we endure the trials and difficulties of life?

---

---

---

3. Read Job 1. Answer the following questions: What kind of a man was Job according to Job 1:1,5? Who initiated the discussion about Job? Who did God permit to afflict Job? What was Job’s response to the devastating events in verse 20? What can we learn here?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

4. Read 2 Corinthians 11:24-28 and then 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. Discuss Paul’s attitude towards the trials and afflictions he and his company faced.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

5. What connection do you observe between 2 Corinthians 5:10 and James 1:12?

---

---

---

**LIST ANY QUESTIONS FOR THE PASTOR ON THE OTHER SIDE.**