

Rejoicing, when there's nothing to smile about

1 Peter 1:6-9 Shining bright on the darkest days

Introduction:

John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

#1 Rejoicing because our FUTURE is guaranteed by God 6 *In this you greatly rejoice,*

Luke 1:44 when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting 44 "For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.

Acts 16:34 And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.

Christian joy is the glad emotion comes from the settled confidence that God is in absolute control and will bring our good in time and our glory in eternity.

Matthew 5:12 "Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

#2 Rejoicing because trials are powerful TOOLS in our lives 6-7 *even though now*

James 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

1st Rejoicing because trials are TEMPORARY *for a little while*

James 4:14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

2nd Rejoicing because trials are NECESSARY *if necessary*

When God allows His children to go through the furnace, He keeps His eye on the clock and His hand on the thermostat

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it. Acts 2:23 this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

3rd Rejoicing because trials are PAINFUL *you have been distressed*

Hebrews 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

TURN TO 2 Corinthians 6:4-10

PART 2 Rejoicing, when there's nothing to smile about 1 Peter 1:6-9

Review: See side one

4th Rejoicing because trials are VARIED by various trials

James 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials 1 Peter 4:10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

5th Rejoicing because trials have a PURPOSE that the proof of your faith

6th Rejoicing because trials have great VALUE

being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire,

7th Rejoicing because enduring trials has future REWARD

may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

#3 Rejoicing because Christ is PRESENT in our trials 8

8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

1 Corinthians 16:22 If anyone does not love the Lord, let him be accursed. Maranatha.

Hebrews 13:5b "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

#4 Rejoicing because faithfulness in trials proves our final SALVATION 9

9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls

1 As you wait, keep your focus on your HEAVENLY home

Colossians 3:1 keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, ...

2 Live by truth but show your JOY

3 TRIALS demonstrate who you really are

4 Loving Christ means you will intentionally LOVE others

1 John 4:20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.