

## In This You Greatly Rejoice

### 1 Peter 1: 1—12 Focus on verses: 6—9

The Apostle Peter and Paul and other first century Christians had first hand knowledge of suffering grief in all kinds of trials. Yet Peter exhorts us to rejoice, yes with inexpressible joy. In our todays world Joni Eareckson Tada exemplifies a life of continuing joy in the Lord in spite of a variety or trials in her life.

Joni broke her neck in a shallow water diving accident when she was seventeen years old. This accident left her paralyzed. She has limited use of her arms and her mobility is with the use of a motorized wheel chair. She is an artist who paints by holding the brush with her mouth. That is a short description of her physical state. But there is much more to her story.

In verses 1—2 Peter identifies and greets his audience (and us as well) with a wonderful triune blessing pronouncing “Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

In verses 3—5 Peter Praises God for the living hope we have through Christ Jesus. He praises God that through faith God guards us. Peter also praises God for our heavenly inheritance as guaranteed. We have God’s word on it. (Remember that Hebrews 6:18 tells us that it is impossible for God to lie!)

With this beautiful greeting and wonderful pronouncement of the blessings, security and inheritance we have in being chosen by God, let us focus our study on verses 6—9.

Peter and other New Testament authors were familiar with trials and sufferings.

**2 Corinthians 11: 16—32:** Paul lists and boasts of his sufferings.

**Acts 5: 17—42** describes the apostles being persecuted. **Verses 40—42** says they were flogged and they rejoiced because they were counted worthy to suffer disgrace for Jesus sake.

**1 Peter 3: 8—16** Peter cautions his audience that they may even suffer for doing good.

**1 Peter 2: 20—23** tells that in the suffering of Jesus Christ we should follow his example

### **The purpose of suffering grief in all kinds of trials.**

Peter tells us that this will prove our precious faith as genuine. The real deal. He learned some examples of that purpose from the life and teaching of Jesus.

**Matthew 13** in the parable of the sower explained in **verse 20—21** the seed that fell on the rocky soil that sprang up quickly in the shallow soil but withered in the hot sun was telling of the person who heard the word and received it with joy. This person had no root and lasted only a short time until trouble or persecution came because of the word

**Mark 14: 36** In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed: could the cup be taken from Him.

**Mark 10: 35—40** Jesus tell James and John they would one day drink the cup.

**Let us consider now what can we learn from the life and example of Joni Eareckson Tada.**

There was a time when her paralysis drove her to deep despair. She has suffered from chronic pain. In these times she longed for relief even if it meant death. She also had breast cancer which she recovered from. She would ultimately know in her struggle against that she wanted to live. She believes that her prayers for healing were answered. God said NO. But she would eventually thank the Lord for her disability because it drew her a place of love and

What grief in all kinds of trials have you suffered?

**Loneliness? Despair? Isolation? Grief? Rejection? Covid-19?**

Joni would one day refer to her cancer by quoting British pastor and author **Alan Redpath**:  
“There is no circumstance, no trouble, no testing that can ever touch me until, first of all, it has gone past God and past Christ, right through to me. If it has come that far, it has come with great purpose.”

These trials yes, prove that our faith is genuine and will result in praise glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. We will one day be rewarded. God is so good.

In verses 10—12 The word of God is shown to be inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Since the Word of God is true you can and should trust it absolutely. It is impossible for God to lie. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. Jesus is the Way the Truth and the Life. That being so, we must believe what the scriptures specifically our text tells us that our trials, griefs and sufferings are of great importance and value and for our ultimate good. In this we can greatly rejoice.