

# 1 Peter 1 - Facing Trials

Sunday AM 07/26/20

## Introduction:

There are a lot of similarities between **James 1** and **1 Peter 1**.

I) **Both are written to a select group of people Jews who lived outside of Palestine.**

A) James calls them the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad. Peter calls them the “Dispersion”.

1. ***“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.” (1 Peter 1:1).***
2. The dispersion is mentioned in the Gospel of John. ***“Then the Jews said among themselves, “Where does He intend to go that we shall not find Him? Does He intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks?” (John 7:35)***
3. These were Jews who never came back from the captivity but they remained Jews. We read about Jews from various nations at Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost in **Acts 2.8ff.**
4. The Grecian or Hellenist widows in **Acts 6.**

**Acts 6:1 NKJV** *Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.*

**Acts 6:1 TCNT** *About this time, when the number of the disciples was constantly increasing, complaints were made by the Jews of foreign birth against the native*

*Jews, that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution.*

**B) Peter goes on and speaks of salvation**

***1 Peter 1:2*** *elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.*

1. By the “foreknowledge of God” and sanctification in “obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Christ.”
2. Peter continues to speak of the ***“living hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ” verse 3; the inheritance that does not fade away reserved in heaven, verse 4; and we are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation, verse 5.*** Great words of encouragement and confidence in our salvation.

**II) James 1, 1 Peter 1 Speak of Trials**

***“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” (James 1:2-4)***

***“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 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 revelation of Jesus Christ,” (1 Peter 1:6-7)***

- A) When you endure various trials (James); grieved by various trials (Peter)**

1. Not if but when- life is full of trials.
2. They come at all ages- go to St. Jude Hospital in Memphis and you will see young people going through trials. Or go to Norton's Children's Hospital in Louisville and you will see the same thing.
3. Hospitals are filled with people of various ages.
4. Mike and I used to look back at the year and hope the next year will be easier than the one we are just completing. But I don't think they have been easier.

**B) Count it all joy (James), rejoice in your salvation if you are grieved by various trials (Peter).**

1. Joy and trials don't seem to go together. Oxymoron- jumbo shrimp, good cry, etc.
2. We have various choices to make in life and one of those is how we are going to respond when we face trials.
  - a. How does a young couple deal with finding out their child has a rare disease and will probably not make it to his or her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday.
  - b. How do you respond when you find out your wife or you have cancer?
3. Usually we get in the "why me" mode. But why not me? Why should we (Christians) be different? Do only Christians get cancer, or killed in auto accidents, etc?
4. Simple fact everyone has trials. ***"For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption***

*into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.” (Romans 8:20-22)*

### III) Four Truths About Trials

#### A) Trials are necessary

**1 Peter 1:6a** *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be*

1. Sometimes trials are God’s way of getting our attention. Much like the pain in your chest gets your attention, or a sudden loss of balance gets our attention.
  - a. **Psalms 119:67** *Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.*
  - b. **Psalms 119:71** *It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.*
  - c. The scriptures speaks of the “chastening of the Lord” **Hebrews 12:5** *And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;"*
2. They teach us good qualities.
  - a. **James 1:3** *knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.*
  - b. Patience and longsuffering is being at the bedside of a love one for days on end.
  - c. Humility often comes from our trials. We realize we

can't do this alone. We need God.

- d. Case of King Manasseh. **2 Chronicles 33:12** *Now when he was in affliction, he implored the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, 13 and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.*

## B) Trials are distressing

**1 Peter 1:6b** *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,*

1. They are distressing because they are personal. Trials that are not personal on some level are not trials; they are inconveniences. That is my child, my mom/dad, my husband/wife, or my job, etc.
2. They are real. A common thing we say or think is "It just doesn't seem to be real." Or "I can't believe that happened."
  - a. I remember being at the hospital a year ago at Mike's bedside and thinking those very things.
  - b. But trials are very real.

## C) Trials comes in various ways

**1 Peter 1:6** *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,*

**James 1:2** *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,*

1. Various or diverse comes from *poikilos*. We get our word

polka dot from this word.

2. Meaning trials comes in various shapes and sizes, shades and colors.
  - a. David had to endure more than his shame with Bathsheba, death of a child, rebellious son, public shame, etc.
  - b. Paul had his “thorn in the flesh”
3. Your trial may be your sin and its consequences. ***“For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me.” (Psalms 51:3)***
4. It may be someone else’s sin against you and harboring ill feelings. ***“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 “But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matthew 6:14-15)***
5. Your trial may not be due to any sin but just life happening.
6. Your suffering may be public where everyone knows or it may be private and not one else knows what you are going through. (Depression)

**D) Trials have a purpose -- maturity**

***“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 revelation of Jesus Christ,” (1 Peter 1:7)***

***“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:6-7)***

1. Testing by fire – shows whether our faith is genuine or fake.
2. Will we melt under fire or will we be purified and made stronger?
3. David Lanphear in Bowling Green lost his wife and then his son. His wife died of a heart attack and his son in a car accident. Those were two very real and grievous trials. But he remained faithful.
4. Maturity also says I understand why you are going through and I can help.

### **Conclusion:**

I can tell you who sympathizes with your trials, Jesus. **Hebrews 4:15 NKJV**  
**15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Matthew 11:28**"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."