

LIVING IN EXILE

1 Peter 1:6-9— A Genuine Faith

January 24, 2016

I. The Greatest Expectations

- As we reflect on verses 1-5, do your experiences ever seem to fit more in line with verse 6? (Psalm 90:10-14)
- Does your theology fit your expectations or experiences? (Romans 8:28; Psalm 119:50, 65, 71)
- Do we see the good in trials?

II. The Greatest Trials

- What sacrifices are made for the sake of relationships? (Matthew 22:37-40)
- Christ has experienced trials with which you cannot empathize, but they bring us hope. (Matthew 26:38; Matthew 27:46-50; Romans 8:31-38)

III. The Greatest Reward

- We are saved to a relationship with our Father and the Creator of the universe, the fulfillment of our joy. (John 17:3)
- Our faith is demonstrated as genuine in our trials.

KNOW: We face trials in life. Our trials are used by God for a faith that results in praise, glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. We can trust He will be faithful in our sufferings.

DO: Be confident that the faith you have is achieving a goal greater than anything on earth. Trust in God's love for you and seek to grow in love for Him.

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read 1 Peter 1:6-9

1. What in your life reminds you most often that our time on earth is short?
2. Have you had a time when you expected God to work in one way in an instance, only to find your plan was not His? Share with the group how your expectations and experiences differed.
3. Are there ways in your life you can be sacrificing for the strength of relationships? What are some things you can give up for this?
4. Read Romans 5:3-5. How does suffering bring about a strengthened relationship with Christ? Why would trials lead to great trust in Him?
5. How is God glorified in our trust and faith now? Why will the fulfillment of our faith when He appears bring Him glory?
6. In what ways can you be confident through trials in your life right now? What verses in God's Word can you meditate on through these trials that will give you hope?