

Tested By Fire

I Peter 1:6-9

#1 - Trials Are Temporary, vs. 6

Peter encourages these men and women to rejoice in the midst of trials. That sounds crazy to us, but even as you heard the testimony of Francis Chan about the Chinese believers living today, when a Christian takes his faith in God seriously, he is able even in the midst of trials to rejoice. Part of that rejoicing comes from the fact that earth's trials are temporary.

#2 - Trials Have A Purpose, vs. 7

The apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Rome: "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose." (Romans 8:28) Here, Peter says that the trial of our faith has a purpose. If you will permit me, I like the rendering of the KJV in verse 7: "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"

- • Our trials of faith are precious/have value.
- • Our trials of faith are harsh.
- • Our trials of faith will bring accolades from God. Oh, to hear God say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant!"

#3 - Trials Focus Our Relationship With Jesus, vs. 8

Peter tells these embattled believers, even though you have not seen the risen Christ, yet you love and believe Him. And this committed relationship is marked with great joy even though it defies the circumstances under which the joy is expressed.

#4 - Trials Do Not Overshadow Our Salvation, vs.9

Trials can cloud the ultimate prize - our soul's salvation. Our faith has an eternal reward, the salvation of our soul. When we face trials, do not lose sight of the ultimate salvation we have been promised by God.