

1 Peter: Elect Exiles

1:6-8

Happiness in Hard Times

In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. (1 Peter 1:6)

Primary Point: You can smile in every trial because of what you have in Christ.

A) God wants you to pursue happiness

(Ps 119:2; John 15:11; Rom 14:17-18; Gal 5:22)

B) Happiness is a theme in Scripture

“Always feel very happy because of what you have in Jesus! I will repeat this: Feel happy!” (Phil 4:4 DEV)

C) The power of the Spirit’s joy to be mixed with sadness

(2 Cor 6:10; 1 Thess 4:13; 1 Tim 1:11; 6:15)

D) How do we know we are passing God’s tests of faith?

E) Happy Christians glorify God

F) You can always feel happiness because of what you have in Christ

(Matt 5:11-12; Isaiah 26:3)

Discussion ?’s

- 1) What was especially meaningful to you in the message?
- 2) Why is there a possible bias against the pursuit of happiness in American Christianity? Why isn’t the pursuit of happiness selfish?
- 3) Why is emotion important to God? (Cf. Romans 14:17-18)
- 4) What do you think of the command in Philippians 4:4?
- 5) Why is joy the true measure of passing God’s tests of faith?
- 6) Do you have an example where a Christian’s joy glorified God?
- 7) What does the Bible teach regarding how you can always feel happy?