



THE ORCHARD

More Precious Than Gold

1 Peter 1:3-12

Pastor Tom Yoon

June 28, 2026

Introduction:

- Last week, we began a new sermon series in the book of 1 Peter.
 - And one reason this book is helpful for us is because, Peter was writing to Christians who were trying to remain faithful in a difficult world.
 - And he writes to spur them on.
 - He writes so they would keep their eyes on the hope they have in Christ.

- And isn't this exactly what we need to hear as well?
 - In a world where we can easily feel discouraged.
 - Where people put us down, where we feel we don't measure up, where we get distracted.
 - We need encouragement to remain faithful, and to keep our eyes on Christ.
 - And that's what we find in 1 Peter.
 - We find encouragement to persevere.

- And last week, we saw how we can keep serving the Lord, because of the work of God.
 - We're chosen by God.
 - We're being shaped by the Holy Spirit.
 - God has secured our inheritance.
 - And God is keeping our faith, until we make it home.



THE ORCHARD

- No matter what your situation is today, if you believe in Jesus Christ, you can live with confidence, as you look to your glorious future.

- But I hear someone saying:
 - “Pastor, it’s great that I have a glorious future.”
 - “But is there any purpose for my current pain?”
 - “Do I just have to endure until the end?”
 - “Is there any help for my current trials?”

- And the answer is:
 - “Yes, there’s definitely a purpose for your trials, and God is absolutely able to help you in your trials today.”
 - In fact, we’ll see how, through your trials, the Lord is refining your faith and drawing you closer to him.

- And so, this morning, we’ll see from our passage:
 - 5 important truths we need to remember, when we face trials in life, so we can grow in faith.

Point 1:

- The first truth we learn about our trials is how they’re brief.
 - Our trials our brief.
 - In verse 6, Peter writes:
 - **In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials... 1**
 - Peter 1:6
 - Peter states how we’re grieved by various trials.
 - The pain is real.
 - But he also says they only last a little while.



THE ORCHARD

- Let's say you suffered for 90 years in this life.
 - Compared to a million years, that's only .009 percent of your life.
 - And compared to eternity, your suffering is only a tiny sliver of your life.

- Imagine a library with an infinite number of books.
 - Think of the biggest library you know.
 - It's filled with row after row of books.
 - Your suffering isn't even one book in the library.
 - It's not even one chapter.
 - It's not even one page in one of the books.
 - It's like a period in one sentence of one book.
 - That's the amount of suffering you'll have to endure in your life.

- When you're experiencing pain, it may seem as though it'll never end.
 - I know it can be a period of deep pain, even many years of struggle.
 - But remember that your suffering in this world, is the only suffering you'll ever know.
 - Your suffering is only a tiny period in one sentence, in an infinite number of books.
 - And after a little while, it's going to pass.
 - It's going to end.

- Listen to what Pastor Warren Wiersbe states regarding our trials:
 - "They do not last forever; they are "for a season." When God permits His children to go through the furnace, He keeps His eye on the clock and His hand on the



THE ORCHARD

thermostat...He will not permit us to suffer one minute too long.” (Wiersbe, 33, 1 Peter)

- Compared to eternity, our trials last only a little while, and not a minute more.

Point 2:

- Second, we also need to remember that our trials are necessary for growth.
- Take a look again at verse 6:
 - **“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary...”** 1 Peter 1:6
 - Bible scholars agree that this isn’t a statement saying that trials are necessary for some, and not necessary for others.
 - Rather, it’s stating how trials are necessary for all believers.
 - I don’t usually read from the New Living Translation.
 - But it captures exactly what Peter is writing in this verse.
 - It says:
 - **“So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while.”**
1 Peter 1:6
- It says we must endure.
 - In other words, afflictions are necessary in the Christian life.
 - Jesus even says:
 - **“In this world you will have tribulation.”** John 16:33



THE ORCHARD

- And why are trials necessary in our life?
 - Because they help us grow.
 - They help us trust in God and not in ourselves.
 - They can even keep us from sin.
 - That's why the Psalmist writes in Psalm 119:
 - **“Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.”**
 - Again, he writes:
 - **“It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.”**
 - It was through affliction the Psalmist was able to obey God's word.

- I don't like to be afflicted.
 - I don't like to be humbled.
 - I don't like to wait, and to feel weak, and to feel pain.
 - But we need to remember, some of the deepest growth in our lives can only come from things we'd never choose for ourselves.
 - It's through the deepest trials, we can experience our greatest growth.

- Peter gives a picture of this, right here in our passage.
 - In verse 7 Peter says that our faith is tested by fire, just like gold.
 - In the ancient world, gold was purified by adding heat.
 - As the gold began to melt in the furnace, impurities would either burn off or be skimmed away.
 - What's also important to remember is that the fire didn't destroy the gold.
 - Rather, it made it pure.
 - And it's the same with us.
 - Your trial won't destroy you.



THE ORCHARD

- Rather, they remove sin, they deepen faith, they show us more of God's grace, and even deepen our love.
- It's through the trials, we can experience our greatest growth.

- And so, let's remember that God has a purpose in what we're facing today.

- And I want to encourage you to read and meditate on God's word when you're facing a trial.
 - That's one of the best ways, you can learn what God wants you to learn.
 - When I've faced trials in my life, I've been able hear God's voice by going to his word.
 - I've been able to see what God wants me to learn.
 - People seem to make decisions with their own thinking, or their own feeling, or advice from others.
 - Of course, we need advice from others.
 - But if you're struggling with a relationship, or struggling at work, if you're concerned for your children, if you're struggling to find joy, if you're struggling with sin, you need to first read God's word.

- When I was in college, I would visit a friend who lived in a rural area, and my friend would turn the lights off when driving at night for a couple of seconds to scare us.
 - It was pitch dark, and we couldn't see the front.
 - Probably not a smart thing to do.
 - But that's what it's like to face trials without God's.
 - His word is a lamp for your feet, and a light for your path.

Point 3:



THE ORCHARD

- Trials are brief.
 - Trials are necessary.
 - Third, we also need to know that trials will lead to grief.
 - Trials lead to grief.
 - **In this you rejoice, through now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials... 1 Peter 1:6**
 - By grief, Peter isn't just speaking about losing someone we love.
 - That's definitely a part of grief.
 - But here, he's speaking about emotional pain, and sorrow in life.

- In other words, yes, the Christian life is full of joy, and love, and peace, and hope.
 - But it's also a life that's filled with pain.
 - That's why you find Jesus weeping when Lazarus died, and tired at the well, and feeling sorrow and compassion for the people who were sick and hungry.
 - That's why the Psalmists can rejoice in one verse, and share their pain in another verse.

- In fact, as Christian believers, our pain will grow.

- That's because we have a deeper understanding of sin and brokenness in the world.
 - Before coming to Christ, we weren't able to see the depth of our sin, and the rebellion of the world.
 - But when we see what the cross of Christ means for us, it can bring both joy and sorrow.
 - We'll see the greatness of God's love, but also the depth of our sin.



THE ORCHARD

- And that can lead to grief.
- You'll even begin to care about others in a way you didn't care before.
 - You'll learn to love your enemies, to be kind to those who hate you, to forgive those who hurt you, to carry the burden of others.
 - And that can bring pain as well.
- There are some who get awkward when people share their pain and their struggles.
 - They feel uncomfortable when they see tears.
 - And instead of listening and praying, they're quick to offer a solution.
 - But when someone is going through pain, it's best to listen, and to pray, and to be present.
 - Grief is part of the Christian life, so must learn to weep with those who weep, and mourn with those who mourn.
- On the other hand, there are others who feel ashamed to share their struggles at church, because they're afraid of being judged.
 - But do you see what Peter is teaching us here?
 - If you're in a season of struggle, that doesn't mean you've failed as a Christian.
 - Grief and trials are part of the Christian life.
 - That's why it's healthy for us, not only to share our joy, but also to share our pain.
 - God designed us, so that as we share with one another, we can experience God's grace.
 - Galatians 6 verse 2 states:
 - **“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”**



THE ORCHARD

- Grief is part of the Christian life, so let's not hide our pain, let's share our pain.
- Here we see that our trials will lead to grief.

Point 4:

- Fourth, we see from our passage how our trials reveal our faith.
- In verse 7 Peter speaks about:
 - **“The tested genuineness of your faith...”** 1Peter 1:7
- When we're tested by the fire, when we go through trials, not only does it grow our faith, it also reveals that our faith is real.
- Do you remember the parable of the Sower?
 - Some seed fell along the rocky soil, and it sprang up quickly, but eventually it withered away.
 - This seed didn't have any root in the ground, and so when trouble came, it was scorched by the sun.
- In the same way, there are some who look like they have faith.
 - They seem joyful.
 - They look excited.
 - They seem committed.
 - But when trouble comes, they walk away.
 - And this may reveal, they never truly had deep roots in Christ.
- But when you hang on to Christ, it can show that your faith is real.



THE ORCHARD

- When you're grieved, but you continue to pray.
- When you're confused, but continue to worship.
- When you fail, but you still run back to Jesus.
- That shows the genuineness of your faith.

- This doesn't mean we'll never struggle.
 - We can have genuine faith and still struggle with doubt.
 - We can have genuine faith and still struggle with sin.
 - But true faith will continue to hang on to Christ.
 - It's a person who doesn't run away.
 - Rather, it's a person who keeps returning to Christ.

- Trials reveal what's in our hearts.

- When I was in seminary, one of my professors would assign to us, several chapters in the Bible to read.
 - And he'd ask 10 to 20 questions on what we read.
 - These were really difficult questions.
 - He'd ask:
 - "What was the name of the servant girl who recognized Peter's voice but forgot to open the gate because she was so excited?"
 - The answer is Rhoda.
 - These tests were hard.
 - But he needed to test us to reveal what was in our mind.
 - In the same way, trials can reveal what's in our hearts.

- If you're going through a difficult time in life today, and you're hanging on to Christ, even though it's hard.
 - Rejoice that your faith is real.
 - Rejoice because you're seeing the tested genuineness of your faith.



THE ORCHARD

- Rejoice because your salvation is secure.
- Rejoice because even if you were to lose everything you have in this world, God is leading you to an eternal weight of glory that can never perish.

- Now, someone may think that it's unfair for God to test his people.
 - But wouldn't you want to know if your faith was truly grounded in Christ?
 - Wouldn't you want to know where stand in Christ?

- If you've built your faith on sinking sand, I know it can be hard to accept.
 - But the good news is that you can trust him today.
 - God brings the fire, not only to show believers how their faith is real.
 - But to show others, how they need to trust in him.
 - And if that is you.
 - Instead of running away, consider trusting in the Lord, and putting your faith in him.

- Because here's the thing, faith is more precious than gold.
 - That's what Peter says in verse 7.
 - It's more valuable than anything in this world.
 - Because it's through faith that we can receive all that God has promised to us.
 - Through faith we can receive forgiveness.
 - Through faith we can receive eternal life.
 - Through faith we can receive Jesus Christ.
 - ~~Your family can't do that?~~
 - ~~Your watch can't do that?~~
 - ~~Your job can't do that?~~
 - ~~Your retirement plan can't do that?~~



THE ORCHARD

○ ~~But only your faith in Christ.~~

- Our trials show the genuineness of our faith.

Point 5:

- Fifth and finally, we need to know how our trials will lead to glory.
- **“In this you rejoice...so that the tested genuineness of your faith more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”** 1 Peter 1:6-7
- When you persevere through trials, remember that you’re worshipping the Lord.
 - You’re giving him praise, and glory, and honor.
- Or think about Job.
 - Satan thought he could dishonor God by turning Job away.
 - He thought Job would curse God and die.
 - But Job continued to trust the Lord.
 - He lost his money, he lost his children, and look at what he says:
 - **“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed by the name of the Lord.”** Job 1:21
 - And when you get to the end of the story, what you see is how God receives praise, glory, and honor.



THE ORCHARD

- When you persevere, you bring praise, and glory, and honor to God.

- At the same time, let's also remember God will also give praise, and glory and honor to us as well.
 - God remembers our work.
 - He remembers our pain.
 - And on the last day, when Jesus appears, the Bible says that our reward will be great in heaven.
 - The Bible says that we'll receive the crowns of life.
 - In 1 Peter chapter 5, he says that we'll receive the unfading crown of glory.

- Let's persevere in our trials, because on that last day, we'll hear for the Lord:
 - Well done, good and faithful servant.
 - Not only do we bring glory to God, God will bring glory to us.
 - ~~○ That's exactly what God did for Job.~~
 - ~~○ In Job 42 it says that God blessed Job's latter days, more than the beginning.~~
 - When we persevere, on the last day, God will crown us with praise, glory, and honor.

- What do we need to remember, so that we can grow through our trials?
 - Our trials are brief compared to eternity.
 - Our trials are necessary for growth, so we need to seek his word.
 - Our trials will lead us to grief, so we need to ask for help.
 - Our trials reveal faith.
 - And our trials result in praise, glory, and honor.



THE ORCHARD

- And so, how can we apply these truths to our lives?
 - How can we respond in light of these 5 truths?

Application 1:

- First, love the Lord.
 - **“Though you have not seen him, you love him.”** 1 Peter 1:8
 - To love the Lord means that you devote your life to living for Christ.
 - That you worship the Lord with all your heart.
 - God is growing us through our trials, and so we need to love the Lord.
- One of the best examples of love, comes from the woman who wept over Jesus’ feet.
 - After weeping over his feet, she wiped his feet with her hair, and poured perfume over his feet.
 - And speaking about this woman, Jesus says in Luke 7 verse 47:
 - **“Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven-for she loved much.”**
 - She didn’t care what other people thought.
 - She didn’t care about her reputation.
 - She worshipped him from her heart.
 - She loved Jesus Christ.
- If you try to live for Christ without love, you’ll gain nothing.
 - You’ll become tired and exhausted.
 - You’ll become bitter and cold.



THE ORCHARD

- But when you remember all the grace that Jesus has given to you, you'll be able to love, and serve, and worship, even when the trials are hard.
- So, when trials come your way, don't let your heart grow cold.
 - But remember his grace.
 - Remember his love.
 - And love him with all your heart.

Application 2:

- Second, believe in him.
 - **Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him...** 1 Peter 1:8
 - To believe in Jesus means we trust in him.
 - It means we trust his wisdom.
 - And trust his timing.
 - And trust his promises.
 - That he knows what's best, even when we don't understand.
- "Bernard Gilpin was a preacher who was taken into custody for preaching the gospel during the time when Queen Mary was persecuting Protestants. He was being taken to London to certain death, but to the amusement of the guards accompanying him he kept saying, "Everything is for the best." On the way he fell off his horse and was hurt, so they couldn't travel for a few days. He told the amused guards, "I have no doubt but that even this painful accident will prove to be a blessing." Finally he was able to resume his journey. As they were nearing London later than expected, they heard the church bells ringing. They asked someone why this was so.



THE ORCHARD

They were told, "Queen Mary is dead, and there will be no more burning of Protestants." Gilpin looked at the guards and said, "Ah, you see, it is all for the best." God used the delay caused by his painful fall to save his life." (Fernando, The Call to Joy and Pain, 30-40)

- We may not always understand why God allows certain trials in our lives.
 - But we can know that God is wise, and good, and that he'll direct our path.
 - So, believe in him.

Application 3:

- Third, rejoice in your salvation.
 - **And rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.** 1 Peter 1:8-9
- When you love the Lord, and believe in him, then you can rejoice in the midst of your trials.
 - Not because trials are easy.
 - Not because your pain doesn't matter.
 - But because you're receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your soul.
- And notice how Peter says this joy is inexpressible joy.
 - This is a joy that words can't explain.
 - It's a deep joy that can only come from knowing Jesus Christ.



THE ORCHARD

- My wife and I are going to celebrating our 15th wedding anniversary this Fall.
 - And we planned a little trip.
 - It's our first trip away together without the kids.
 - And whenever I have any free time, I keep looking up places where we can eat, and we can go.
 - I've got 73 places where we're going to eat in 5 days.
 - I'm filled with joy, thinking about our time together.
- And if you're struggling to find joy during your trials, it may be because you keep looking down and not up.
 - Don't look at your earthly inheritance, rather keep looking at your heavenly inheritance, the outcome of your faith, and you'll be filled with inexpressible joy.

Application 4:

- Fourth and finally, we can respond by serving the next generation.
 - Let me read verses 10 to 12:
 - **“Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully...It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you...things into which angels long to look.”** 1 Peter 1:10-12
 - I don't have time to flesh out everything these verses are saying, so I'm going to jump to the conclusion.
 - Basically, these verses show how past prophets and preachers, and to some extent even angels, were serving Peter's readers.



THE ORCHARD

- **“They were serving not themselves but you...”**
 - Prophets and preachers suffered to pass to the next generation the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - For some of you, your parents, previous pastors, Sunday school teachers, missionaries, and neighbors, gave themselves so that you could receive the gospel.
 - How can we not persevere, as we think about all the people who sacrificed, and even gave their lives for the gospel of Jesus Christ.
-
- In the same way, we need to persevere, so that we can pass the gospel to the next generation.
 - For the future of the church.
 - For our children and their children.
 - We need to press on.
 - We need to keep the faith.
 - So when you face trials in life, remember this, your faithfulness isn't just for you.
 - It's for the next generation of believers.
 - And let's also persevere, and let's keep the faith, so that others may know and love Jesus Christ.