

## **“How to Glorify God, part 2” 1 Peter 1:6-7**

INTRO:

We have been studying the subject of glorifying God. We started by pointing out that the reason that we exist is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. We then looked at reasons why we need to glorify God. We learned that there are three. **(1)** We must glorify God because He deserves to be glorified. **(2)** We must glorify God because we were created to glorify Him. **(3)** We must glorify God because glorifying God marks us as believers.

Tonight, with the Lord's help, we will be looking at the first in a list of ways in which we bring glory to God. We can glorify God in our suffering. We will look at our passage in **1 Peter 1** in two divisions.

***I. TWO REALITIES ABOUT SUFFERING (v. 6)***

***II. THE RESULT OF OUR SUFFERING (v. 7)***

***I. TWO REALITIES ABOUT SUFFERING (v. 6)***

A. One of the questions which have plagued Christians in general and theologians in particular for years is the question: “*Why do Christians suffer?*” The first of the two realities Peter wants us to understand is: Christians suffer only when it is necessary for them to suffer. This truth is found in one little phrase that many times we read right past in this verse. It is the phrase “*if need be.*”

1. Our God is NOT a God who enjoys watching His children suffer. Still, as we live out our lives in this veil of tears, we may be called upon to suffer.

2. When suffering comes our way and the road gets rough and downright painful to travel we must remember this great truth from Peter's pen. We never suffer except it is necessary to fulfill some purpose of God.

3. What possible purpose could God have in allowing us to suffer? Sometimes it is necessary that we suffer so we are equipped to minister to others who are going through suffering.

***2 Corinthians 1:3-4 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”***

4. Sometimes God allows us to go through suffering because it is the only way that we can learn that he is “*the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort*” (2 Corinthians 1:3). As the song writer wrote. “*If I never had a*

*problem/ I wouldn't know that He could solve them/ I wouldn't know what faith in God could do."*

5. Sometimes God allows us to suffer because he is doing something in someone else's life through what he is doing in us.

**2 Corinthians 1:6** *"Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation."*

6. Whatever the reason we can be assured that the words of the song writer are always true. *"God never moves without purpose or plan when trying His servant or making a man."*

B. There is a second reality about suffering in this verse we need to see. Suffering is never forever, but only for a limited time. Peter says *"though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials."*

1. God never calls upon us to suffer forever. He only asks us to bear up under suffering for a limited time.

2. Suffering for a Christian is only for a little time. Sometimes it is for months, sometimes for years, it may be for the rest of our lives, still it is not forever. The key to looking at this period of suffering is our perspective.

3. Peter, like Paul before him, sought to teach believers to look at suffering from a Biblical and eternal perspective. Paul wrote in **Romans 8:18** *"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."*

Suffering today is very real and very painful, but when compared to eternity it is light and momentary.

## ***II. THE RESULT OF OUR SUFFERING (v. 7, John 9.1-3)***

A. What does suffering produce? Peter told us in verse 7 *"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, in order 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, whom having not seen you love."*

One of the products of our suffering is that it demonstrates the genuineness of our faith.

1. And this process of proving our genuine faith is in the eyes of God more valuable than the most valuable thing that Peter can think of, gold. The testing

and refining of gold is necessary so that its essential value can be determined. If this is true of gold, how much more important is it that the essential value of our faith be proven and seen?

2. Why is this so valuable to God? First, it is because it brings praise and glory to Christ at His revelation. Second, because it also brings praise and honor from God to us! A. T. Robertson concurs that this is a *“both and”* situation.

B. How does it do that?

1. Remember we discovered that God is glorified in us, when through us, others catch a glimpse of God's majesty, perfections, or works. When our faith goes through the fires of affliction, it reveals God's work in our hearts. He is the source of our faith and it evidences the quality of the work that He has done in us!

2. **John 9:1-3**

*“Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but [in order] that the works of God should be revealed in him.’”*

Our God shows His love, compassion, and provision for us in the times of trouble and difficulty.

3. Others see His power at work in transforming us from the inside out in our response to these troubles and our steadfast trust in our Father to bring us through.

4. And God's great power is demonstrated as He brings us through the impossible situations safe through to the other side.

We sometimes suffer and God is glorified when we respond to the trials in our lives in a proper way. Let us remember the lessons of **1 Peter** and **John 9** and recognize that our Lord Jesus Christ can receive praise and honor through our suffering. Let us then be careful to glorify God in our suffering.

How can you apply this reality in the struggles of your life?

Hymn #419 ***Abide with Me***