

16. Some would say that we should read the Old Testament as a book of its time and not particularly relevant for Christians. But what are we told here about why these particular things were written and their purpose? How does this compare with what Paul writes in Romans 15.4?

17. What does Peter, and Paul in Rom 15.4, say particularly about how the Old Testament can help us when we are going through trials?

## Pray

Pray that we might live as people who not simply believe in Jesus but truly love him and want others to love him too?

Pray for those who are going through particular trials perhaps because of illness, infirmity, anxiety and so on. Pray for relief, but also pray that it would serve to turn people to Christ or to purify and strengthen their faith and love.

Pray also for those going through the trials of persecution and remember Christian organisations which draw attention to the plight of such people and seek to get aid to them. Pray that their rejoicing would not only bring glory to God but cause their persecutors to turn to Christ.

*David Phillips  
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# 1 Peter

## Week 2 : The Testing of Faith

### Rejoicing and Grieving

#### Read 1 Peter 1.6-9

1. Peter writes “In this you rejoice...”. From the previous few verses what is it that he is referring to? Why should it cause us to rejoice, and does it?

2. In contrast what is it that Peter says causes us to be grieved? What sort of things do you think he is referring to and are they your experience too?

*In these verses Peter gives us encouragements to rejoice whilst grieving through trials:*

3. First, in the last study (v5) what was it that helps us to persevere?

4. The oldest, and still it seems best way, to test gold is to burn off all the impurities. How do trials therefore serve to refine faith?

5. Why should the testing of our faith therefore cause us to rejoice? See also James 1.2-3.

6. Secondly, We haven't seen Jesus in the flesh in the way Peter had (v8) though we will (v7). How does Jesus example help us to rejoice despite trials? (See Hebrews 12.1-2)

7. Thirdly, what does Peter say about the outcome of our faith in v9 and how should this help us whilst going through trials? (See also Romans 8.18)

8. Fourthly, do you find that trials can cause you to think God does not know or does not care? How should knowing that trials have a purpose help us?

9. Perhaps like David there have been times when your couch has been drenched with tears (Ps 6.6) and it was as if you ate tears day and night (Ps 42.3). How can David's words on another occasion, in Psalm 56.8 also help and encourage us?

10. Finally, the end of verse 7 might mean either we will receive glory, or that we will bring glory to God, or both. How can both these things help us to persevere through trials?

## You Love Him

11. How does Peter describe what it means to be a Christian at the start of verse 8? (Other examples are Mtt 10.37, Jn 8.42, 1 Cor 16.22 & Eph 6.24 some of which are very strong statements.) Is this language you would use to explain to someone what it means to be a Christian and what do you think it actually means?

12. **Read John 21.15-19.** What does Jesus say here about the trials Peter would endure because of his love for Him.

13. How from verse 8 are the first recipients of the letter who lived long ago more like us than Peter? How were they (and we) able to love Jesus in the same way as Peter?

## The Prophets

Read 1 Peter 1.10-12. *Most of the New Testament is written by those who had seen Jesus (including Paul) or based on eyewitness accounts (Luke & Mark). In these few verses we learn of others who had not seen Jesus but eagerly wanted to know about Him.*

14. We saw in our previous series how the promises to David, and many Psalms, point us to Jesus. Most of the prophets came after David's time, but how does Peter say that they also point us to Jesus?

15. Can you think of any particular prophecies that speak about 'the sufferings of Christ' or 'the subsequent glories'?