



“YOU CAN MAKE IT”

Smiling Through Suffering
1 Peter 1:1-12

THE RECIPIENTS OF HOPE

In verse 1 Peter describes the recipients of this letter by three terms:

“pilgrims”-Peter reminds them that where they physically lived was not their home. They were citizens of heaven.

“scattered”-Peter writes to a group who were scattered in five different parts of the Roman Empire all of them in northern Asia Minor (modern Turkey). They were also scattered in spirit and hope.

Pontus
Bithynia
Cappodocia
Galatia
Asia

“strangers”-Christians have different standards and values from the world. Because they were strangers in the world, they will be considered strange to the world. **1 Peter 4:4**

REASONS WHY WE CAN SMILE THROUGH SUFFERING

- _____ v. 3-Believers in Jesus Christ have been “born again” to a living hope because of Christ’s resurrection from the dead. Christian hope is grounded on the reality of Christ and His resurrection.
- _____v. 4-All believers have an heavenly inheritance purchase by the blood of Jesus.
- _____v. 5-No matter how big the pain and suffering is, God is in control. Suffering is a mystery at times, but God will protect us by His power from now through out eternity.
- _____vv. 6-7-Trials bring out a growing faith. Big Faith are the results of experiencing big trials.

Four Truths of Suffering

1. They are necessary to humble us, turn our attention from self to God.
 2. They are distressing, painful, difficult, not easy.
 3. They are varied and diverse; they come in different forms, at different times, and for different durations.
 4. They are revealing, proving the genuineness of our faith, just as gold, when refined in fire, is purified and demonstrated.
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- _____ v. 8-When suffering comes you have to believe in who you have not seen.
John 20:24-29

 - _____ v. 9-God has the power to save physically through trials, but even when our bodies succumb to death, our souls are faithfully delivered as promised.

 - _____ vv. 10-12-Peter says we have the blessing of having a different viewpoint than the individuals of the Old Testament. They wrote about a coming Messiah, but we have experienced Him.