

**A Lively Hope In Troubled Times**  
**Fashioned by Fire**  
**1 Peter 1.6-16**

[Temptation, trials and tribulation are guaranteed for every born-again Christian.]

*[2 Tim. 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.]*

[What kind of trials are we talking about? **Chuck Swindoll** tells this story.]

**Mary Hillingsworth** once wrote an article about the very rich **Mr. Hunt**, an oil billionaire that at one time was said to be the richest man in the world. At one time **his son Lamar Hunt** had purchased the **Texas Football Team** and move them to **Kansas City**. In making the move, for a number of years Lamar had lost **1 million dollars a year.**]

[In an interview a reporter asked Mr. Hunt, "Aren't you concerned about the fact that Lamar is losing a million dollars a year on that football team."]

[Mr. Hunt replied, "Well, the way I figure it, if Lamar losses a million dollars a year he will be broke in about 450 years."]

**[When you have that kind of money, losing a million dollars a year is not a trial.]**

[The Christians that Peter is writing to were suffering under severe persecution. They had lost everything. **Their jobs, homes, belongings, security, and even their lives were in peril.** They were desperate in the worst kind of way.]

[When desperation comes your way. When you are called upon to deny Christ or lose all that you have worked for in your life. What do you do?]

[Do you deny Christ and keep all that you have or do you stand for Christ and lose everything?]

[That is exactly what these Roman Christians were faced with. Realizing the direct Word's of Christ caused these Christians to face and make some terrible choices.]

**Matt 16.24**

*[Matthew 10:32-33 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. <sup>33</sup>But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.]*

[*Matthew 16:24-26* Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, **let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.** <sup>25</sup>For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: **and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.** <sup>26</sup>**For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?]**

[Peter is writing to Christians who are facing the worst kind of persecution and his goal is to give them a **Lively Hope in Troubled Times.**]

[**What does the Word of God teach us about life's trials?**]

**A. The Rigors of trials (vs 6)** [- "*Ye are in heaviness through Manifold Temptations.*"]]

**1. Trials are Diverse** [- "*. . . Manifold Temptations . . .*"]]

[Word Study - **Manifold** - poikilos poy-kee'-los (gk) - 1) a various colours, variegated 2) of various sorts.]

[*James 1:2* My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into **divers** temptations;]

[Temptations come in different and diverse ways. Some come,]

- [In the quiet.]
- [When you are alone.]
- [When you are in a crowd.]
- [When you are with your friends.]
- [When you are at work.]

**2. Trials are Direct (Luke 22.31-32; Eph 6.11-12; 1 Cor 10.13)** [- "*. . . ye are in heaviness . . .*" - **this speaks of the intensity of the trial.**]

**Eph 6.11**

[Word Study - **Temptations** - peirasmos pi-ras-mos' (gk) - 1) an experiment, attempt, trial, proving 1a) trial, proving: the trial made of you by my bodily condition, since condition served as to test the love of the Galatians toward Paul (#Ga 4:14) 1b) the trial of man's fidelity, integrity, virtue, constancy]

[**Your trials will be tailored just for you.** Often people will feel as though no one else has ever experienced what they are going through.]

- [Simon Peter was sifted by Satan (Luke 22.31-32)]

*[Luke 22:31-32 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: <sup>32</sup>But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.]*

- [Satan took out an all out attack on Job.]

**[Your trials will be intense]** because **they will be focused wholly on you**, in a spiritual warfare.]

[Word Study - **Heaviness** - lupeo loo-peh'-o (gk) - 1) to make sorrowful 2) to affect with sadness, cause grief, to throw into sorrow 3) to grieve, offend 4) to make one uneasy, cause him a scruple.]

[Because of the intensity of our trials we must prepare for trials, and expect trials, by putting on the whole armor of God.]

*[Ephes. 6:11-12 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ]*

1 Cor 10.13

**[Yet, you are not alone in your trials (1 Cor 10.13) ]**

*[1 Cor. 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. ]*

1 Pet 5.8

### 3. Trials are Deliberate (1 Pet 5.8; 1 John 4.4; James 1.3-4; Eph 6.11)

[Satan has a purpose in your temptations and trials - Your destruction.]

*[1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: ]*

Jame 1.3

[God also has a purpose in your trials - Your glorification and victory.]

*[1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, **and have overcome them**: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. ]*

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**Notice in our Text,**

**A. The Rigors of Trials**

1. Trials are Divers
2. Trials are Direct – intensity

[James 1:3-4 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. <sup>4</sup>But let patience have her perfect work, **that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.** ]

[Perfect here is the Greek word *telios* meaning **fully matured.**]

[Ephes. 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, **that ye may be able to stand** against the wiles of the devil. ]

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**B. The Result of trials (vs 7)** [- That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: - We are purified by the fire of trials.]

**[The Purpose of Trials.**

1. [Trials give us **Discipline** (Psalm 119.67, 71) - Trials train us spiritually and help us to stand wholly on God's Word, by faith.]

[Psalm 119:67 **Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.**]

[Psalm 119:71 **It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.**]

2. [Trials give us **Devotion** (Heb 12.10-11) [- The peaceable fruit of righteousness. Trials exercise us in spiritual sincerity. God is not interested in our outward appearance, but in our inward reality. God looks on the heart.]

[Hebrews 12:10-11 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. <sup>11</sup>Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: **nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.**]

2 Cor 12.7

3. [Trials give us **Determination** (2 Cor 12.7-9) [- They fix our resolve to prevent us from sinning.]

[Paul's thorn in the flesh kept him from being proud. His trials led him to a desire for more of the power of Christ to rest upon him. Paul's thorn kept him from the sin of pride.]

[2 Cor. 12:7-9 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, **lest**

***I should be exalted above measure.*** 8For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. ***Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.***]

4. [Trials give us **Distinction** (1 Pet 2.9-12; Titus 2.14; vs 7) [- They purify us.]

1 Pet 2.9

[We are a peculiar people - We are distinctive people.]

**[1 Peter 2:9-12** *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*

***<sup>10</sup>Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God:*** which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. <sup>11</sup>Dearly beloved, I beseech

you as strangers and pilgrims, ***abstain from*** fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

<sup>12</sup>***Having your conversation honest*** among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, ***they may by your good works,*** which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.]

[What is it that makes us distinctive? - **It is our purity.**]

**[Titus 2:14** *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, **and purify unto himself a peculiar people,** zealous of good works. ]*

**[What makes us pure? The fires of trials! (vs 7)** - "*That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried by fire, might be found unto praise and honour . . .*" ]

[As pure as gold tried in the fire.]

[The goldsmith knows that the gold is pure when he can see his reflection in it. Likewise, **Jesus is stamping His image upon us through these trials.**]

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**B. The Results of Trials - The Purpose of Trials**

1. Trials give us Discipline
2. Trials give us Devotion
3. Trials give us Determination
4. Trials give us Distinction

**C. Our Resolve in Trials - We can endure because,**

**1. You have an eternal hope (vs 8-9, 13)**

[1 Peter 1:8-9 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, **yet believing**, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: **<sup>9</sup>Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.**]

[1 Peter 1:13 Wherefore **gird up** the loins of your mind, be sober, **and hope to the end . . .**]

[Word Study - **Gird up** - anazonnumi an-ad-zone'-noo-mee (gk) - 1) to gird up 2) metaph. **be prepared** 2a) a metaphor derived from the practice of the Orientals, who in order to be unimpeded in their movements were accustomed, when starting a journey or engaging in any work, to bind their long flowing garments closely around their bodies and fastened them with a leather belt.]

[**Let your lively hope cause you to be watching and ready.**]

2. **You have a guaranteed glory** (vs 10-11,13) [- Your glory is coming and will be revealed at the revelation of Jesus Christ.]

[1 Peter 1:10-11 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: **11**Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, **and the glory that should follow.**]

[1 Peter 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace **that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;**]

3. **You have a divine calling** (vs 14-16)

[1 Peter 1:14-16 **As obedient children**, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: **15**But as **he which hath called** you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; **16**Because it is written, *Be ye holy; for I am holy.* ]

[We are called to be **obedient Children.**]

[Everyone faces trials in life. The lost and the saved. But, only the saved have the blessed assurance of an eternal hope and an all-power heavenly Father to see them through.]

[We are called **to be holy.**]

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1. You have an eternal hope
2. You have a guaranteed Glory
3. You have a Divine Calling

CrossRoads Baptist Church, Nov 7, 2020  
Sugar Creek Baptist, February 20, 2005, Evening Service