

WE REJOICE!

I Peter 1:1-12

Let us never forget that no matter our circumstances, we have reason to rejoice

We rejoice ...

I. BECAUSE OF OUR PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT (1-2)

A. GOD CHOSE US (1-2a)

- Though scattered and suffering sojourners they were ...

1. Foreknown by the Father
2. Sanctified by the Spirit
3. Sprinkled with Christ's blood

B. OTHERS PRAY FOR US (2b)

1. Peter was praying for them ...
2. Even when they were scattered
3. Even if they'd never met

C. APPLICATION

- Be an encourager and watch others rejoice! (and you will too!)

We rejoice ...

II. BECAUSE OF A MERCIFUL GOD (3-6a)

A. THE REALITY OF HIS MERCIES (3-5)

1. A Living Hope (3)
2. A Lasting Inheritance (4)
 - That cannot be destroyed or defiled and cannot disappear or be deserted
3. A Loving Protection (5)
 - Shielded by God's power through faith

B. OUR REACTION TO HIS MERCIES (6a)

1. Overjoyed: A shouting type of joy
2. A jubilant celebration of God's goodness

C. APPLICATION

- Stop focusing on the world's miseries and start reflecting on God's mercies!

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We rejoice ...

III. BECAUSE OF AN ENDURING FAITH (6b-9)

A. A FAITH THAT IS PROVEN BY TRIALS (6b-7a)

1. The trial: A test that reveals our character (6b)
2. The terms: Temporary, if necessary, varied
3. The Treasure: A proven, more precious faith (7a)

B. A FAITH THAT GLORIES IN CHRIST ... (7b-9)

1. At His Revelation (7b)
 - We discover that our faith leads to a previously unknown worship (see Rev. 5:11-13)
2. Until His Revelation (8-9)
 - We've not yet seen Him, but we are loving, believing, and rejoicing in Him and compensated by Him.

C. APPLICATION

- We should be grateful for God's faith tests that make us better

We rejoice ...

IV. BECAUSE OF OUR SPECIAL PRIVILEGE (10-12)

A. WHAT WAS A MYSTERY ... (10-11)

1. Prophets were curious about God's salvation plan (10)
2. Prophets were confused about Christ's sufferings and glories (11)
3. Prophets were communicating to Christians coming after them (12a)

B. IS NOW OUR MESSAGE (12b)

1. Proclaimed by gospel preachers ...
2. Perplexing to holy angels

C. APPLICATION

- Announce to others God's glorious gospel!

CONCLUSION: As we reflect upon our reasons to rejoice, let us bless God ... (v. 3a)

1. For His encouragers (1-2)
2. For His kindnesses (3-6a)
3. For His refinements (6b-9)
4. For His messengers (10-12)

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