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# DIFFERENT

## Different Faith in Trials

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[ TITLE SLIDE: ]

**Over the next few weeks we'll be looking at 1 Peter**

- God is calling His Children to be different in this world!

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## Context of 1 Peter

Peter wrote it

- **Peter writing to group of heavily persecuted Christians.... Talks about....**
  - The HOPE we have in Christ
  - Christians are to be DIFFERENT from this world

## CONTEXT for WHEN it was written

- 60 to 65 AD.... during the reign of evil man named NERO
- Killed his MOTHER / 1st Wife / ?2nd Wife
- History believes HE burned the city of ROME (64 AD... burned 6 days)
- He had an insatiable lust to build
- He BLAMES little group of passionate, already hated....  
CHRIST ONES
- IT'S DURING THIS PERSECUTION Peter writes this letter

## GIVE IDEA HOW BAD IT WAS

- Animals skins on Christians / Lock in cage and unleash wild dogs / watch while eating
- Dip Christians in hot wax / tie to trees and light them on fire / Party

THAT is the context during this letter

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## WHO IS THIS MESSAGE FOR?? .....2 Groups of People

1ST - Hurting / Questions unanswered / **IN Trial**

Financial... Physical... Tension in Relationship... Children...  
Emotional... Addiction...

If you're going through difficult time... this is for you

2ND - For those who **WILL One Day GO through a Trial**

You're either **COMING OUT** of Trial / **IN MIDDLE** / **GOING INTO** Trial

- No matter what you're going through...

When we are hurting... we want to hear from God

That's the context of this Book

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[ 1 Peter 1.1 NLT ]

*This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to God's chosen people who are living as foreigners in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia.*

- The Greek word for foreigners is translated many ways.....

**parepidēmois:** —exiles, sojourners, aliens, strangers, foreigners

- Peter is saying: You need to understand and Remember Christian...

**This world is NOT your home**

- If you're a follower of Jesus.... you're a STRANGER to this world
  - Sojourner.... just passing through
  - Alien.... Not your final dwelling place
  - Life here is temporary....

**THIS WORLD IS NOT YOUR HOME.... THEREFOR...  
YOU WILL BE DIFFERENT FROM THIS WORLD**

### **What does that mean??.....**

- You'll have different VALUES from those around you
- Different MORALS than other people
- Different BELIEF system
- You'll be different MOM / DAD / SON / DAUGHTER
  - You'll be different as a HUSBAND / WIFE
- You'll be different in how you respond to mistreatment
- Different how you spend MONEY..... WHY??

**THIS WORLD IS NOT YOUR HOME!!**

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**TODAY'S MESSAGE....** Peter is showing us, if you're in the middle of a trial.....

- Because this world is not our home.... YOU can have a different kind of Faith
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Remember the CONTEXT and who Peter is writing to....

 [ 1 Peter 1.6-7a NLT ]

*So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while.*

(In other words, God may not make these trials go away....

But there is a wonderful joy ahead))

7 *These trials will show that your faith is genuine.*

- If Genuine faith, there must be a FALSE faith

- Some parts of world your faith in Jesus can cost you your life

- BUT.... in Bible belt it is much easier to be Christian

- I believe many people call themselves Christians but they are NOT at all...

.....It's a false faith

## QUICKLY: Let me Show you 3 Types of FALSE FAITH

### 1st **INHERITED FAITH**

- Mom was Methodists / Dad was Baptist

- I'm not Buddhist or Muslim.... grew up in America.... must be Christian

- Kids grew up in church... then go to college and not sure anymore

- Inherited Faith... NOT GENUINE Faith

### 2nd **SHALLOW FAITH**

- Jesus told story of it in Matthew 13..... Farmer sowing seeds...

- Shallow soil little plant sprung up.... no roots

- Worries of life / Deceitfulness of wealth / Love for things of world

- Choked out plant

- Church alone is not going to give you the strength you need 7 days

- Especially if it's once or twice a month

- YOU and I NEED ROOTS IN GOD....

YOU NEED TO TAKE STEP FORWARD BEFORE DEVIL TAKES YOU OUT



3rd

## CONDITIONAL FAITH

- Those who say...

- "I believe in God... Love God... **AS LONG as things GO MY WAY!**

- How can I believe when I'm ....SICK / LOVED ON DIES /

That is CONDITIONAL FAITH and it is a False Faith

## Those of you who have FALSE FAITH...

I believe God brought you here today to CHANGE that to Genuine Faith

- **Don't be angry... God is after you today!!!**

- Trials can reveal the depth of your Faith

## HOW IS IT GOD USES TRIALS



#1

## TRIALS REVEAL YOUR FAITH



[ 1 Peter 1.7 NLT ]

7 These trials will show that your faith is *genuine*.


**A Faith that has been TESTED... Is a Faith that can be TRUSTED**

- Peter's Faith was Tested..

- Been Tested... Failed a little bit.... Grew Stronger

Re-grouped... Redeemed... COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED

Go back maybe 25 years prior to see this...

 [ Luke 22.31-32 NLT ]

*"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat.*

- In other words, satan wants to test you hoping you will fail

*32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. (Trials reveal your faith)  
And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."*

- EARLIER: Peter was.... Obnoxious / Inconsistent / Hot headed / Rash

- LATER: Peter was.... Incredibly Bold / Tenacious / Full of Faith

.....What happened??

- God used those trials to strengthen and GROW Peter

- EARLIER: Peter denied 3 times

- LATER: Peter first to speak on PENTECOST

- GOD USED HIS TRIALS TO STRENGTHEN AND GROW

 [ James 1.2-3 NIV ]

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.*

- NLT .....For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow

Other words... God is going to USE it!! God is doing something IN it!!

You're in pain now.... please understand, there's Purpose in your Pain

- God is ALWAYS for you

- God ALWAYS Loves you

- God is ALWAYS Good!!!

..... Trials Reveal Your Faith

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## HOW IS IT GOD USES TRIALS



### #2 TRIALS DRAW YOU CLOSE TO GOD



[ 1 Peter 1.8-9 NLT ]

*You love him even though you have never seen him.*

*Though you do not see him now, you trust him;* (Remember who Peter is writing to...)

*and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy.*

- A **JOY** that can only come from Heaven

- Calms our soul / Peace of Mind

- Even though you're Hurting / Afraid / Grieving / It's Dark

*9 The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.*

- Notice... **This is the Gospel... GOOD NEWS!**

- God saves us from our SINS

- God DID NOT say He would deliver us from all our troubles

- He NEVER said you won't have migraines

- Financial Difficulties / Heart aches

Jesus said the OPPOSITE:



[ John 16.33 NLT ]

*I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."*

The Good News **ISN'T** He saved us from trials.....

The Good News is He SAVES OUR SOULS and Forgives our sins!

Who has heard saying....

*"God will never give you more than you can handle"*

- Actually misinterpretation of:

God will never let you be tempted beyond what you can bear

I'm convinced God will let you have more that you can Handle

.....That teaches you to depend on Him!

- When you're hurting... you call on Him

- When you're desperate you call on Him

- Those with a False Faith don't need God when times are good!

If you are in tuff times.... He may be drawing you back!

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TODAY....

Some are going through VERY difficult times.....

- Painful / Heart breaking / Dark / Don't know what to do...

**Remember: Our Faith is not in what we see, Our Faith is in who God is**

- Same time we hurt... because it's real



- Same time we have human fears... because we are human

If you're here and you're hurting....

Take a step towards God

When you draw near to Him He will draw near to you.

- God brought you here because He loves you