


Standing in the True Grace of God

Peter's Life, Letters and Lord

1 Peter 1:3-9

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (NIV)

1. Read through this week's passage to get a sense of Peter's message. Now re-read it and underline what Peter says about God.
2. Peter says, “[God] has given us new birth.” What is this new birth? (Jn. 1:12-13; 1 Jn. 5:1)
3. Why do you think Peter makes the point that the new birth is rooted in God’s great mercy? (Titus 3:3-5)
4. Why is this new birth necessary? (Jn. 3:1-3; Eph. 2:1-5)
5. What are the benefits of the new birth?
 - v. 3
 - v. 4
 - v. 5a
6. Why do you think it is important that our new birth and hope are tied to the resurrection (v. 3c)? (1 Cor. 15:17-20)
7. The children of Israel were given a portion of the Promised Land as their inheritance. What inheritance is allotted to those who have been given new birth? (Rev. 21:1-7)
8. Why do you think bringing up their future inheritance would be important to the readers of Peter’s letter then and now? ( * 2 Cor. 4:16-18)

9. Peter encourages his readers that they are shielded by God's power. What images come to mind when you think of this?

10. List the various trials Peter mentions in this letter that are causing the readers grief:

2:11-12		4:4	
2:18-20		4:8	
3:1		4:14	
3:16-17		5:8	

11. In spite of their grief, the Christians are also greatly rejoicing.
- Why do you think they are able to experience both emotions at the same time? (v. 3-9, 13; 4:12-16; 5:10)
 - Peter repeatedly emphasizes that believers can rejoice in the midst of their suffering. How can you apply (or have you applied) this truth in your life?
12. What are the divine purposes behind the trials the believers are facing? (v. 7)
13. Peter states that our faith is more valuable and enduring than the purest gold.
- What is faith? (v. 8; Heb. 11:1)
 - What is the goal of our faith? (v. 9; Rom. 6:22)
14. Unlike Peter, his readers (then and now) have never physically seen Jesus. What can we look forward to? (v. 7b; 1 Thess. 4:16-18)
15. You can probably understand better now why Peter begins his letter with praise. Take a moment to do one of the following:
- Ask God to show you your need for new birth.
 - Ask God to give you this new birth.
 - Celebrate what God has done for you.