



Christians Aren't Always Happy!

We should expect our pilgrim journey to include many hard and unpleasant experiences.

1 Peter 1:6, ESV, NASB, NIV
 ...you have been grieved by various trials...distressed by various trials...suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

Christians Can Always Be Joyful!

Our forward-looking joy overcomes the present grief.

1 Peter 1:6, NIV
 In this you greatly rejoice, though now...you suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

Hebrews 12:2, MSG, NLT
 Keep your eyes on Jesus...study how he did it. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross...because he never lost sight of where he was headed, he could put up with anything along the way.

The Joy Of Heaven—Before Heaven!

We don't have to see Jesus to love him or to trust in his promise of future glory.

1 Peter 1:8, ESV

Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory...

The Perspective Of The “Long-Ranger”

Even a lifetime of constant suffering is relatively brief when compared to eternal glory.

1 Peter 1:6, NIV

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while...you suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

2 Corinthians 4:17, NIV

Our light and momentary trials are producing for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

Nothing Just Happens!

Suffering is more bearable when we realize that it is always purposeful.

1 Peter 1:6, ESV & 1:7, NIV

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials...These have come so that...

Proving Our Faith

God puts our faith into the furnace of suffering to *test* it.

1 Peter 1:7, NLT

These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests...gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold.

Improving Our Faith

God puts our faith into the furnace of suffering to *refine* it.

1 Peter 1:7, NLT

These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold.

Far More Precious Than Mere Gold!

Presently *refined* faith will become eternally *rewarded* faith.

1 Peter 1:7 & 9, NLT

So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world...The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

Peter Would Agree...

You are never alone in the furnace of suffering!

Daniel 3:24-25, NLT

But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and exclaimed to his advisers, "Didn't we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?" "Yes, Your Majesty, we certainly did," they replied. "Look!" Nebuchadnezzar shouted. "I see four men, unbound, walking around in the fire unharmed! And the fourth looks like a god!"
