**I Peter 1:6-9**

***Facing Trials***

Introduction

1. How can we make sense out of trials?

2. I Peter 1:6-9 I believe Peter tells us how this is possible:

How can we make sense out of trials?

**I. THE PRONOUNCEMENT OF TRIALS 1:6**

 ***A. The Praise***  *In this ye greatly rejoice*

**Trials are opportunities not obstacles.**

1. The fountain of joy does not reside within us or our circumstances.
2. Peter looks back to vss. 3-5 *Living hope…Inheritance…kept by the power of God*
3. (James 1:2-4) *Count it all joy…*

***B. The Providence***

**1. Chartered By God...***If need be...*

**Trials are for a purpose.**

 \*Trials are given to meet needs. I don’t determine what I need. We have some

 inadequacy, some blind spot in our Christian life.

 \*There are special times when God knows we need to go through trials…to

 temper us…to discipline us…to draw us close to Him.

 \*We don’t always know the need to be met. We can trust God who does know

 and He will do what is best!

**2. Controlled By God...***For a season...*

**Trials have a time limit.** *This too will pass.*

 *\*Season* means little or small. Life at its longest is but a speck in eternity.

 Whatever you are going through will end!

 \**When God permits His children to go through the furnace, He keeps His eye on*

 *the clock and the thermostat.* How often we rebel and stiffen our necks!

 \*The important thing is that we learn what He wants to teach us and that

 ultimately, we bring glory to Him.

***C. The Pain*** *Ye are in heaviness...*

**Trials are painful and the pain is not imaginary.**

1. Though permitted, though filtered through my Father’s hands…trials are never

 designed for our ease.

1. Trials produce heaviness which means, to experience grief or pain. There are

 difficult experiences in life that produce grief, pain, sorrow and tears. The believer is not exempt.

***D. The Pursuit*** *Through manifold trials...*

**Trials have many facets, sizes and shapes**.

1. *Manifold* means many colored and speaks of variety.

 **\*Trials come from many different directions.**

 **\***What is a trial to you may not be a trial to me.

 **2. *Trials* are like bananas…they come in bunches.**

 \*James 1 *Testing* comes from the outside and God permits *testing. Tempt* comes

 more from the inside…bitter, anger, hatred, etc. God cannot and does not *tempt*

 anyone. God permits a test to strengthen our faith and walk with God.

 \*Trials can come from 3 sources: From God…From Satan (with God’s

 permission)…From our own doing (we break natural laws).

How can we make sense out of trials?

**II. THE PURPOSE OF TRIALS 1:7**

1. ***The Produce*** *These have come so that your faith…may be proved genuine. So that the*

*testing or your faith…may prove to be for praise and glory.*

1. Faith is more precious than gold that does not last.
2. ***Faith that cannot be tested cannot be trusted.*** **Trials let us see what is genuine.**
3. ***The Process*** *Of gold though it be tried by fire...*
4. The illustration is of an alchemist. He would heat the gold. The impurities would rise to the surface. The impurities were then skimmed off. The process was not completed until he could see a reflection of himself in the gold.
5. So, it is with trials. **Trials bring out the impurities.** The real us is exposed. This is to humble us, to see what’s really in us. Pressure brings out what is really there. Hot water brings out the brown in the tea bag. This is so we can clear it away and ultimately there is a reflection of Jesus Christ.
6. ***The Product*** It won’t be complete until Jesus comes.
7. *Praise*
8. *Honor* Worship this great God! It’s all about Him. It’s not about me!
9. *Glory*

 \*He wants us to be ready to meet Him.

 \*We are very special to God or He wouldn’t spend so much time on us.

 \***Trials are part of a process called sanctification.** Welcome trials: No fire…no pure gold. No Cross…no crown. No rain…no rainbow. No irritation in an oyster…no pearl.

 \***Trials are designed to make us better.** Resist and you will become bitter!

How can we make sense out of trials?

**III. THE POSSIBILITIES OF TRIALS 1:8-9**

*Praise, honor and glory* now…How is this possible?

 ***A. Respond To Christ 8a*** *Whom having not seen we love...*

**1.** Power comes from sufficient grace. Annie Johnson Flint…needed ten pillows

 under her because she was in so much pain. She wrote, *He Giveth More Grace.*

 **2.** Power comes from expanding love. *Whom having not seen we love.* *Love* is present tense.

 It is a continual love for the Lord!

 \*Our love for Christ is not based on physical sight. Those to whom Peter was writing had

 never seen Jesus. **They loved Him!**

 **\***When you find yourself in some trial and you hurt…immediately lift your heart to Christ in

 love and worship. Satan wants to use trials to bring out our worst. God wants to bring out

 our best!

 **\***If we love ourselves more than we love Christ, we will never experience any glory now!

***B. Rely On Christ 8b*** *Though now ye see not, yet believing...*

**1.** Power from faith does not depend on seeing or feeling.

 **2. It can be awfully dark when trials come.**

 **3.** Live by faith and not by sight. (Rom. 8:28…*we know*)

 **4.** *Faith* or believing God means we surrender all and we rest on His word in spite of

 circumstances or consequences. Love and trust go together. When all the lights go

 out God says, *Trust Me.*

**5.** *Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.* Spend more time in the Word of

God.

**6.** Trust and love says: *Though I don’t have all the answers…I have God!* *He is never closer*

*than when I am suffering.*

 ***C. Rejoice In Christ 8c*** *Ye rejoice with joy...*

**1.** Power and joy comes from abiding trust.

 **2.** Joy is based on believing God. *Joy* is a fruit of the Spirit and cannot be manufactured. It is

 a gift, and becomes ours when we trust Him. *“Do you trust Me?”*

 **3.** Joy is present. You don’t have to wait. Shouting for joy that cannot be

 contained…*unspeakable* is impossible to express the depth of joy. *Full of glory…*it is

 glorious.

1. **With each new trial we learn something new and wonderful about our Savior**.

 Joy is so deep that we cannot even express it. It is too wonderful for words!

***D. Receive From Christ 9***

Power is available in the present deliverance. *Obtaining the outcome…*what do we obtain?

1. Believing and receiving is God’s way of meeting needs.
2. We can experience a bit of heaven today: *Salvation of your souls* is a result of believing God…taking God at His word. *Salvation* has 3 aspects: Deliverance for the Penalty of Sin…Deliverance from the Power of Sin…one day Deliverance from the Presence of Sin.

**How can we make sense out of trials?**

***Trust Me!***

***Believe Me!***

***Yield Totally To Me!***