

# Salvation Joy

1 Peter 1:6-9

## Introduction

“You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound” (Psalm 4:7).

“But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you” (Psalm 5:11).

“Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!” (Psalm 32:11).

“Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling! Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God” (Psalm 43:3-4).

**With God Himself as our living, indwelling *inheritance*, how can we be anything but exceedingly joyful?**

**The *fellowship of His suffering* is the stewardship of our suffering.**

“do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in the suffering for the gospel by the power of God” (2 Timothy 1:8).

“Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 2:3).

“that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death” (Philippians 3:10).

**As Jesus shared in our humanity to deliver us from eternal death, so we share in His death that we might have eternal life.**

“We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh” (2 Corinthians 4:8-12).

This profound truth is symbolized in the waters of baptism (cf Romans 6:1-4).

“Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery” (Hebrews 2:14-15).

“Discipleship is bound to the suffering of Christ. That is why Christian suffering is not disconcerting. Instead, it is nothing but grace and joy. The acts of the church's first martyrs give witness that Christ transfigures the moment of greatest suffering for his followers through the indescribable certainty of his nearness and communion” (Bonhoeffer).

**Never are we closer in communion with Christ than when He appoints a heavy load to bear.**

“For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too” (2 Corinthians 1:5).

**Only by bearing the suffering are we able to overcome it.**

**FOUR REASONS we are able to go beyond enduring trials to *rejoicing* in them:**

**1. A LIVING HOPE; 2. A GROWING FAITH; 3. A FORTHCOMING HONOR; and 4. An ENDURING LOVE**