

Salvation Joy

1 Peter 1:6-9

PART FIVE

Introduction

Myopia/myopic = 'nearsighted'; 'a common vision condition in which you see objects near to you clearly, but objects farther away are blurry.' 'lack of imagination, foresight, or intellectual insight.'

"For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7).

"Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (Luke 17:33).

3. A FORTHCOMING HONOR

Enduring suffering with abiding joy will bring *praise, glory, and honor* to us and to our Lord Jesus Christ on the day of His return.

"In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (vv6-7).

The believer with weak faith suffers from *myopia*.

The radical change of perspective in the transformation of the apostle Paul:

"But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ" (Philippians 3:7-9).

The Lord is coming, and His reward is with Him!

"Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him" (Isaiah 40:10).

"Behold, the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him'" (Isaiah 62:11).

"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done" (Revelation 22:12).

"Use me here as pleases you, so that hereafter it may be well with me" (Augustine).

We receive *praise, glory, and honor* from God for responding in faith when faced with challenges in life.

"But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God" (Romans 2:29).

“How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?” (John 5:44).

“for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God” (John 12:43).

“He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life” (Romans 2:6-7).

There will be “glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek” (Romans 2:10).

“Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God” (1 Corinthians 4:5).

“His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master'” (Matthew 25:21).

Live faithfully in the present in hopeful anticipation of *future glory*.

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Romans 8:18).

“the unfading crown of glory” that will be received “when the chief Shepherd appears” (1 Peter 5:4).

“a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed” (1 Peter 5:1).

“set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:13).

“The whole nature of suffering is changed for the Christian when he realizes that his anguish brings honor to Christ” (Clowney).

“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him” (James 1:12).

“when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed” (2 Thessalonians 1:10).

4. An ENDURING LOVE

Our steadfast faith in Him who we cannot see is strengthened by our love for Him in whom we believe.

“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, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls” (1 Peter 1:8-9).

Suffering is actually the context in which we come to know the love of God (Powlison).

Because God is a *Refiner's fire*, suffering becomes the means by which we come close to God, to see Him.

"I heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you" (Job 42:5).

"Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed'" (John 20:29).

Romans 8:35-39

The apostle Paul shared the same Spirit as Job did. The question is: *do we have that same Spirit in us?*

"the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in His wings" (Malachi 4:2; NKJ).

"It is the proper work of faith to believe what we do not see, and the reward of faith to see what you have believed" (Augustine).

The Huguenot martyrs. The words of a Reformed Christian galley slave:

'My chains are the chains of Christ's love.'

It is love that readies and steadies a beloved sufferer to endure hardship and pain.

"Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him" (James 1:12).

"For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory" (Colossians 3:3b-4).

"We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf" (Hebrews 6:19-20).