

June 7, 2026
I Peter 1:6-9
“The Problem Of Suffering, Finding Purpose In Our Trials”

PRINCIPLES AND APPLICATION

Faith turns sound doctrine into good practice. A Christian’s joy is independent of his circumstances. **James 1:2**, “Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance.” This informs one of what to expect and the reason why it has come.

Trials, have at least two purposes/results. **1.** Trials refine or purify one’s faith similar to the refining process of gold. **2.** Trials prove the reality of one’s faith. Stress deepens and strengthens a believer’s faith like nothing else. **James 1:12**, “Blessed is the one who endures trials, because when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.”

Proven faith is worth more than all of the gold in all of the earth. No comparison. That gold can purchase a whole lot of things but falls way short when measured against the price/value of faith and the inheritance that comes with it.

Gold is highly prized by man. The more refined, the better. Faith is even very much more so. Gold, not faith, is valued by men today as a whole. That theory is proven wrong every day as people enter eternity without saving faith.

A proper perspective on trials is expressed in, **II Corinthians 4:17**, “For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory.”

“Christian theism is the only worldview which can consistently make sense of the problem of evil and suffering.” *C. S. Lewis*

“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” *C. S. Lewis*

Application:

II Corinthians 4:16-18, “So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. (ESV)