

STRANGER PEOPLE ~ 1 STRANGE FAITH IN TRIALS

This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to God's chosen people who are living as foreigners in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. 1 Peter 1:1 NLT

***parepidēmos*—exiles, sojourners, aliens, strangers, foreigners**

So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. ⁷ These trials will show that your faith is genuine. ... 1 Peter 1:6-7 NLT

FALSE FAITH

- _____ FAITH
- _____ FAITH
- _____ FAITH

HOW DOES GOD USE YOUR TRIALS?

1) TRIALS _____ YOUR FAITH.

These trials will show that your faith is genuine. ... 1 Peter 1:7 NLT

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. ³² But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” Luke 22:31-32 NIV

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4 NIV

2) TRIALS _____ TO GOD.

You love [God] even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. ⁹ The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1:8-9 NLT

Group Discussion

- Read 1 Peter 1:1. How can you identify as a stranger, foreigner, exile, or sojourner?
- Why do you think God doesn't miraculously keep you from experiencing any trials?
- Think of a time when a trial revealed your faith. What kind of faith did it reveal: inherited faith, shallow faith, conditional faith, or genuine faith?
- Have you experienced a trial that drew you closer to God? What caused you to move closer to God instead of moving away from Him?
- What trial are you facing right now? How can you begin to trust God with it?