

# Joshua & Peter: The Sufficiency of God

## Lesson 3: Testing God's Sufficiency

**Key Verse:** ...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.~1 Peter 1.7

Peter opens his letter to the scattered Church by extolling Jesus as his, and our, **Beautiful Savior** while keeping God's suffering Church focused on the object of their **faith** and salvation, Jesus. *Beautiful Savior, You suffered and died for our sins so that we may have a living hope in You. Open our minds and understanding to the joy and glory of the outcome of our faith, our salvation now and forevermore. Amen.*

**1 Peter 1.1-12** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **2** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

**3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4** to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, **5** who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

**6** In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, **7** 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. **8** 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, **9** obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**10** Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, **11** inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. **12** It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

### Diamonds:

In contrast to Joshua, Peter's personality was impulsive, explosive, and dynamic. At times Peter spoke (and acted!) before thinking, and though rebuked by Jesus for his impulses and thoughtlessness (Matthew 14.31; 16.23; 17.24-27; 26.33-35; Luke 9.33; John 13.37; 21.22), Peter was never untethered to his hunger to know more about Jesus (Matthew 15.15; Luke 12.41), and His observations that confirmed his suspicion that Jesus was God's promised Messiah (Matthew 16.16; Luke 24.12; John 6.68-69). Likewise, Jesus honored Peter's faith in Him, defined grace by reinstating Peter as an apostle, and gave Peter a responsibility: "feed My sheep" (John 21.15-17).

1. Like in Lesson 2, choose one topic about Peter's backstory from the topics provided below. Write your observations about the stories in the topic, sharing them so that everyone learns more about Peter:

<p>~call by Jesus to be His disciple: Matthew 4.18-22; Luke 5.1-11; John 1.35-42</p> <p>~witnessing and participating in Jesus's miracles: Matthew 8.14-17; Matthew 14.22-33; Luke 8.40-56</p> <p>~curiosity and inquisitive nature: Matthew 15.10-20; 18.21-22; 19.23-30; John 13.3-9; Mark 11.12-14+20-25</p> <p>~declaration of Messiah: Matthew 16.13-23; John 6.60-70</p>	<p>~witness of Jesus' transfiguration: Matthew 17.1-8, 24-27; Luke 9.28-36</p> <p>~betrayal of Jesus: Matthew 26.30-56, 58, 69-75; Mark 14.54, 66-72; John 13.36-38, 18.15-18, 25-27</p> <p>~Jesus' resurrection: Matthew 10.1-20; John 21.1-23</p> <p>~the arrival of the Holy Spirit: Acts 2</p> <p>~experience in the early church formation: Acts 5; 8.1-25 + 9.32-43 + 12.1-19; 10-11.1-18</p>
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2. What stands out to you about Peter's backstory?

- a. What is revealed about God in the stories of God's history with the distinct personalities of Peter and Joshua (Lesson 2 & 3)?
  
3. Peter's introduction to his letter in verses 1-5 are packed with clear truths about Jesus and God. Having learned more about Peter's backstory, how do you think his 3 years following Jesus, even to His death and resurrection, influenced what Peter says in this introduction?
  
4. Read verses 4-5 in several translations (NIV, The Message, NLT, Amplified, etc.) What do you learn about what God is doing for you right now?
  
5. Peter opens the subject of trials, suffering, and our response in verses 6-7. What is the end result of our enduring, or being grieved by trials?
  - a. While first and foremost Peter's writing is inspired by God through His Spirit, how do you think all his experiences with Jesus, and the persecution he suffered while doing what God commanded him, reinforced his exhortation to "rejoice" in trials?
  
6. Read John 20.24-29. Briefly describe what happens. How does this event relate to what Peter says in V8?

More than marveling at those who believe in Jesus though they have not seen Him, in V 8-12 Peter is pointing us to look ahead, into "the outcome of [our] faith, [our] salvation" in Christ much the same way the prophets and angels looked to understand and see Messiah fulfill God's promise of salvation. In pointing us to an eternal perspective, Peter mentions "the cardinal Christian virtues": hope (V 3), faith (V 5), and love (V 8).

7. Read this passage in several translations. How do these three virtues make a difference in your life today?
  - a. How will these three virtues keep your perspective eternal as you live in the mundane, or in trials, or in great celebrations and joy?

**Deity: Beautiful Savior-** Inspired by the German hymn, [\*Beautiful Savior, King of Creation\*](#) (1677), this deity encapsulates Jesus as Son of God, the Messiah and Savior; Son of Man, the empathic High Priest who wore the crown of thorns; and the King of creation who restores what was created through Him by His Father (John 1.1-3), wearing the insulting but *final* crown of thorns, exchanging it for a crown of glory, and seated at the right Hand of His Father, God (Hebrews 12.2). Jesus' crucifixion was more than a humiliating death when considering the role of created things used to crucify God's Son: nailed to a tree designed by His Father, wearing a crown of thorns, designed by Satan.

And now, all glory, honor, praise, and adoration belong to Him forevermore because by His wounds we are healed (Matthew 8.17), reconciled to God (Ephesians 2.13-22), now our Father (Romans 8.15-17; Galatians 4.4-6), too! He truly IS a Beautiful Savior.

1. Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!

3. Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,  
Bright the sparkling stars on high;

Truly I'd love Thee, truly I'd serve thee, Light of my soul, my Joy, My Crown.	Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer Than all the angels in the sky.
2. Fair are the meadow, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer; He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.	4. Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor, Praise, adoration, Now and forevermore be Thine!

8. What is your response to your Beautiful Savior?

**Doctrine: Faith-** Belief and trust in and loyalty to God: something that is believed especially with strong conviction: complete trust (Hebrews 11.1). In the Bible, faith is simply belief, faith and belief being two English translations of what is only one word in Greek (*pistis*).

Faith is believing God and acting on it. It is necessary to stress the last part of that definition, however, because saving faith is not mere intellectual assent. The demons have this kind of belief (James 2.19), but they tremble before it. They are not saved.

Saving faith involves three elements:

- 1<sup>st</sup>, content (for belief is always in something), specifically, the content of the gospel concerning salvation (Matthew 16.16; John 1.12; 3.16; Acts 4.12; 16.3);
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>, a personal, loving trust in one's heart in Jesus Christ, who is a person and who first loved us (John 1.12; 3.16; 6.37; Acts 16.14);
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>, a commitment to repent and follow Christ (Matthew 11.28- 30; Luke 9.23; 14.25-27; Acts 3.19; 20.21; Romans 12.1-2). This last element is refused by many because it means giving up control of our lives and acknowledging the lordship of Christ over our thoughts and actions.
9. Peter teaches us that faith is a mechanism of God's power used to guard our salvation in Him (V 5). In Lesson 2, we heard God repeatedly tell Joshua to "be strong and courageous". Read Hebrews 12.1-4. Using anything you have studied thus far, what is the most important lesson you are learning about faith?

**Your Scripture-Soaked Prayer:** 1 Peter 1.3-6: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused \_\_\_\_\_ to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for \_\_\_\_\_, who by God's power [is] being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this \_\_\_\_\_ rejoice[s]:

Now I am grieved by [the following] trial(s):

Sustain me so that the tested genuineness of my 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.

Choose your favorite stanza of the hymn, *Beautiful Savior, King of Creation* (this week's deity). Write it here, ending your prayer in praise of your Beautiful Savior:

## Lecture Outline:

**Aim:** God's goal for His people is a pure faith.

- I. Revealed Faith (1 Peter 1.1-5) **T1:** The faith of every believer is protected by the omnipotent power of God!
  - a. How does trusting Christ as your Beautiful Savior affect the decisions you make and the actions you take?
  - b. How could trust in Him help you exhibit a biblical, "I know so" faith when fear and doubt creep in?
- II. Refined Faith (1 Peter 1.6-12) **T2:** The faith of every believer is purified by the Holy Spirit of God.
  - a. Which impurities in your faith need to be burned away?
  - b. What steps will you take to pursue the God-standard of pure faith?

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Clowney, Edmund P., *The Message of 1 Peter*, Bible Speaks Today (London, England: Inter-Varsity Press, 2021) pgs.1-10, 176-179  
Dorani, Daniel M., *1 Peter*, Reformed Expository Commentary (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing Company, 2014) pgs. 3-13, 233