

110721 Growth Group Study

Joy and Pain

1 Peter 1:6-9



Background:

Guest speaker, Gary Vanderet, a former PBCC Pastor.

Sermon Text (ESV):

1 Peter 1:3-9

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.

Discussion Questions:

- Preparation
 - As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
 - What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- Sermon Questions
 - The Christian view of suffering is unique: *through* suffering Christians come into glory, like Jesus. What is an example of suffering or trial in your life where you came out more tender, more humble, or with greater purpose than ever before?
 - We are to rejoice in our *inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you*. What helps you to hold onto this future hope amidst suffering or trials?
 - Gary asserted that it is a paradox, but not a contradiction, that among Christians, distress/grief and joy can co-exist. In fact, we are both *sadder* and *happier* because of the Gospel. In what ways or situations does knowing Jesus make you *sadder*? And *happier*?
 - What brother/sister/Christian community do you look to for help during these *sadder* times?
 - John Newton said, “*Everything that is necessary God sends, and nothing that can be necessary he withholds.*”
 - What suffering or trial can you look back on today and be thankful that God brought it into your life?
 - What do you badly want/desire that God is “withholding” from you? How has this sermon given you a new perspective on these desires?