



Cultivating Hope in a Hopeless World

FIRST PETER

Six Reasons to Rejoice

First Peter 4:12-19

In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.

1 Peter 5:10 (NLT)

Six Reasons to Rejoice

First Peter 4:12-19

Chapter four continues with encouragement for endurance in the Christian life. There is practical instruction based on Christ's example in undergoing suffering. In order to endure suffering, Christians are to arm themselves with Christlike courage (4:1-6), we are to minister to one another with Christlike service (4:7-11) and now we are reminded to keep the long view of Christlike faith.

Christians are not merely to endure, but are to actually *rejoice* in righteous suffering. "Count it all joy when you meet various trials," is foolish advice, except for one thing—God. Peter gives six reasons why we can "keep on rejoicing" when the affliction comes. They all relate to God.

1. *Suffering confirms authentic faith and consumes artificial faith (12)*
2. *Suffering evidences that we are united with Christ (13a)*
3. *Suffering is the means for attaining greater joy in glory (13b)*
4. *Suffering reminds us that the Spirit of Glory and of God rests on us (14)*
5. *Suffering brings Glory to God (16)*
6. *Suffering assures us of God's faithfulness to care for our souls (19)*