

Point 1: What God has done in the past v3

Point 2: What God is going to do in the future v4-5

John 11:25, Rom 8:32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also, with Him, graciously give us ALL things?

Point 3: What God is going to do in the present v6-12

Phi 1:11, Rom 8:28, Ps 103:19

Job 23:10 - But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

Gen 50:20 You meant evil, God meant it for good.

A faith tested by fire is a faith made pure by trial.

DISCUSSION

What does it mean to be 'born again'?

What is our living hope? Why is it called a "living" hope?

What made this hope possible?

What are the unique characteristics mentioned about this inheritance? How is this inheritance different than an earthly one?

How does our heavenly inheritance encourage our faith in the midst of uncertainty and trials?

In what ways do you think studying heaven would strengthen your faith? (BTW we have a 10 part series on our RGC website!).

When Peter says 'in this you rejoice' – what is he referring to?

Discuss the relationship between 'caused to be born again', and our heritage 'kept in heaven' and 'guarded through faith'.

How has what God's done, and what God is going to do comforting and encouraging this season of uncertainty?

Have a discussion about God's sovereign ways in context of "if necessary". Why is this comforting in the midst of uncertainty?

Reflect on Job and Joseph with specifics about how their trials purified their faith.

Why is our faith more precious than gold in God's sight ?

How is this Coronavirus season purifying your faith?

Talk about why our joy should be inexpressible even in the midst of difficulty.

QUOTATIONS

Point 1

"It is 'living'- by so describing it, Peter indicates that it grows and increases in strength year by year, trial by trial." W. **Grudem**.

Point 2

"And as He spoke, He no longer looked to them like a lion; but the things that began to happen after that were so great and beautiful that I cannot write them. And for us this the end of all the stories, and we can most truly say that they all lived happily ever after. But for them it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on for ever: in which every chapter is better than the one before." CS **Lewis** The Last Battle

Ed Clowney, a wonderful pastor and author commented on this passage:

"Not only is our inheritance kept for us, we are kept for our inheritance. Our faith is God's way of keeping us. It is his gift. Why does God use faith as the instrument of his keeping power? Because faith is not our achievement, but trust in God's achievement." Ed **Clowney** , The Message of 1 Peter Commentary

Point 3

"Christians must be reminded that God's purposes in present grief may not be fully known in a week, in a year, or even in this lifetime. Indeed, some of God's purposes will not even be known when they die and go to be with the Lord. Some will only be discovered at the day of final judgment when the Lord reveals the secrets of all hearts and commends with special honor those who trusted him in hardship- even though they could not see the reason for it: they trusted him simply because he was their God and they knew him to be worthy of their trust.

It is in times when the reason for hardship cannot be seen that trust in God alone seems to become most pure and precious in his sight. Such faith He will not forget, but will store up as a jewel of great value and beauty to be displayed and delighted in on that last day." W. **Grudem** , 1 Peter Commentary