

# First Peter

## Victors Not Victims (Week 1)

### LifeNotes

## TALK IT OVER

### Main Idea

When our goal is clear, we can walk through the trials of life with joy.

### Key Scriptures

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.*

1 Peter 1:3-4

*In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.* 1 Peter 1:6

*These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.* 1 Peter 1:7

*Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.* 1 Peter 1:8-9

*Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.* 1 Peter 1:13

*But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”* 1 Peter 1:15-16

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.* Hebrews 12:2

**Joy should mark a follower of Jesus.**

### Start talking.

- What are some of the negative and fearful messages our cultures push at us?
- What are common issues in our daily lives that create anxiety and stress?
- What is your typical response when life isn't easy?

### Start thinking.

- How “hope” and “courage” antidotes to stress, anxiety, and fear?
- Read 1 Peter 1:3-4. What are the specific reasons Peter says to “Praise God” found in these verses?
- What is the “inheritance” he speaks of?
- Read 1 Peter 1:6. What was the “grief” and “trials” that these early Christians were facing?
- Read 1 Peter 1:7. How were the “trials” proving the genuineness of their faith? Would their faith have been “un-genuine” without the trials?
- Read 1 Peter 1:8-9. What would the external signs of “inexpressible and glorious joy” look like? How was that joy connected to their understanding of the goal?
- Read 1 Peter 1:13. How were they to prepare their minds?
- Read 1 Peter 1:15-16. How can we be holy as Jesus is holy?

### Start sharing.

- Is your life marked by an “inexpressible and glorious joy”? Why or why not?
- Read Hebrews 12:2. In what ways are you distracted from focusing on Jesus? How does that effect your hope and courage?
- What would it look like for you to, “set your hope fully” on Jesus? How would that impact your life and relationships?

### Start doing.

- Who do you know that models an “inexpressible and glorious joy”? Seek them out this week. Share what you see in them and ask how they are able to be such representatives of joy.
- What are common negative thoughts that steal your joy? Write them down, then offer them back to God as a prayer. Ask him to specifically shift your perspective back to him.

### Closing prayer.

Jesus, thank you for the overwhelming gift of your salvation. I confess I am easily distracted by fear, anxiety, and stress. Help me to refocus my heart and mind on you. Help me to trust you through my many trials and to become a person who is set apart by a wonderful and infectious joy. For your purpose and your glory.