

Your Ultimate Reason for Undiminished Joy

1 Peter 1:6-9



1 Peter: Holy Living in a Hostile Land

O holy night!

The stars are brightly shining,
it is the night of our dear Savior's birth.

Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'til He appeared, and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees!

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WHY?

What reason do people have to be joyful given such harsh realities?

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Are you living now with Jesus for that last day with Jesus?

Peter gives us **four reasons for rejoicing**
which all have their origin and meaning in
one ultimate reason.

Four reasons for rejoicing:

I. Rejoicing Over the Protection of Your Faith (1 Peter 1:5-6)

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Nothing can alter or destroy the truth that defines and guards our **souls**: as God's elect pilgrims on this earth, we are *“protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time... In this you greatly rejoice...”*

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“...even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials.”

Here is where the reality of our salvation *“ready to be revealed in the last time”* meets with the reality of our here-and-now experiences on earth.

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- II. Rejoicing Over the Proof of Your Faith (1 Peter 1:7)**

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Your faith is *dokimion* = genuine

Contrast with *adókimos* = counterfeit faith which will not stand the test of God's final judgement

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“Apart from Christ, people are given up to a mind that is *adókimos* (Romans 1:28), i.e., to an outlook which, since they themselves did not see fit to acknowledge God, is unattested or inauthentic.”

(TDNT)

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- III. Rejoicing Over the Person of Your Faith (1 Peter 1:8)**

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“The more faith can know of Christ, and the more such knowledge possesses the heart, the stronger believers’ love for Him becomes and the more joy they exhibit. Thus, love and trust are the two elements that bind believers to a living fellowship with Jesus Christ.”

John MacArthur

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- III. Rejoicing Over the Person of Your Faith
- IV. Rejoicing Over the Product of Your Faith (1 Peter 1:9)**

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Your highest reason for undiminished joy in trials is:

Jesus is working His salvation blessings in your life as He purifies your faith to stand His test on the last day.

Celebrate the joy of Jesus in you.

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