

How Trials & Failures Can Bring Out God's Best in You



READ: 1 Peter 1:1-9

This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ.

I am writing to God's chosen people who are living as foreigners in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. ² God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more grace and peace.

³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, a living hope, ⁴ and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. ⁵ And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

⁶ So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. ⁷ These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. ⁸ You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. ⁹ The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

REFLECT: What trials and failures did Peter have to go through in his walk with Jesus?

Peter: Bold or impulsive? Self-confident or prideful? Risk-taker or rash?

...it was Peter who left the boat to walk on the water to Jesus and promptly took his eyes off Jesus and began to sink ((Matthew 14:28-30)

.. It was Peter who took Jesus aside to rebuke Him for speaking of His death—and was swiftly corrected by the Lord (Matthew 16:22-23).

...It was Peter who suggested erecting three tabernacles to honor Moses, Elijah, and Jesus (and fell to the ground in fearful silence at God's glory (Matthew 17:4-6).

... It was Peter who drew his sword and attacked the servant of the high priest and was immediately told to sheath his weapon (John 18:10-11)

... It was Peter who initially refused to have Jesus wash his feet when Jesus was showing the attitude in serving others. (John 13:6-10)



Reflect on 1:7 "These **trials** will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

What does God want us to remember about our failures & trials?

1.. Failures and trials cause _____

2.. Failures and trails help us to _____

Why was it necessary for Peter to go through failure in order to become who Jesus would help him to be? (note verses below)

³¹ On the way to the mount of Olives, Jesus told them, "Tonight all of you will desert me...." ³³ Peter declared, "Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you." (Matthew 26:31, 33)

(Luke 22:31-34) ³¹ "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. ³² But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers."

³³ Peter said, "Lord, I am ready to go to prison with you, and even to die with you."

³⁴ But Jesus said, "Peter, let me tell you something. Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me."

(third denial moment when someone insisted Peter must have known Jesus)
But Peter said, "Man, I don't know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Suddenly, the Lord's words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me." And Peter left the courtyard, weeping bitterly. Luke 22:60-62

3.. Failure & trials reveal the _____

4. Failure and trials have the ability to _____

"The Bible consistently changes the questions we bring to the problem of pain. It rarely, or ambiguously, answers the backward-looking question "Why?" Instead, it raises the very different, forward-looking question, "To what end?" We are not put on earth merely to satisfy our desires, to pursue life, liberty, and happiness. We are here to be changed, to be made more like God in order to prepare us for a lifetime with him. And that process may be served by the mysterious pattern of all creation: pleasure sometimes emerges against a background of pain, evil may be transformed into good, and suffering may produce something of value."

Philip Yancey, Where Is God When It Hurts?

Respond & Apply: Individual & Small Group Discussion Guide

Jesus did not leave Peter in his brokenness and failure. He met with him after he rose from the dead! Read John 21 and discuss the following questions:

Jesus came to where the disciples were at (John 21:1). How does this help you to know that Jesus is ALWAYS seeking to connect with you?

Jesus challenges Peter to look at his failure through the question of: "Do you love me?" IN ORDER for Peter to realize Jesus was showing his faith in Peter to live out his call to "feed my sheep".

Why is that question and response so important in giving Peter hope for his future?

Where has Jesus given you hope beyond your failures and fears?

How has faith in Christ sustained you through trials?

What are some practical ways you can look to Christ to sustain you in these days?

When people fail, we are inclined to find fault with them, but if you look more closely, you will find that God had some particular truth for them to learn, which the trouble they are in is to teach them. G.V. Wigram

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