

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. Dealing with hardships in life is completely different for the believer. How does the focus on joy in verse 6 completely change the way Christians experience the difficulties of life? Several other passages on trials in believers' lives are Hebrews 12:1-17 and James 1:2-8. Can you identify at least three major ways believers understand difficulties differently from those who do not know Christ?
2. Peter is alluding in this passage to an ongoing occurrence in the Roman Empire. What is happening as Peter writes? How would this affect you if this were occurring in Birmingham today?
3. In verse 6, how are these trials described? Can you name a number of avenues through which people experience trials? Consider the following three types of Christians and the trials they might particularly face: teenagers, adult children caring for infirmed parents and widows.
4. In verse 7, Peter calls for the faithful endurance of trials. How does one faithfully endure a trial? 1 Peter 2:21-23 and James 4:6-10 will be of help. What does Peter say is the result of the faithful endurance of trials? How does endurance strengthen our faith? Peter uses a beautiful metaphor from the smelting of ore. What is the metaphor and how does it powerfully reflect the purpose God has in trials?
5. In verse 8, Peter seems to change direction in His thought. What is the emphasis of Peter in verse 8? How is this not a change of thought, but the apex of his thought concerning trials? As we experience the trials, what is God truly doing in our life? See 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 for Paul's similar passage.
6. In ending this study, look back on your life and consider two of the hardest trials you've experienced. Consider what the Lord taught you or is teaching you currently. In prayer, surrender your will to His purposes and by faith give Him thanks. He is always faithful.

LIVING HOPE: V "Rejoicing in the Fire" (I Peter 1:6-9)

I. Seeing Trials through His Eyes

1. Life by _____.

2. Life by _____.

II. Trials: Certainty in Mystery

1. Trials are _____.

2. Trials are _____.

3. Trials are _____.

III. Growing Through Trials

1. Grow by knowing trials _____ your faith.

2. Grow by knowing trials are necessary to _____ your faith.

3. Above all, grow by knowing trials _____ you and _____ you to _____.