

Series: Stand Firm – Lessons From 1 Peter

Title: Part 1

Date: September 30/October 1, 2017

Speaker: Geoff Surratt

Big Idea: In 1 Peter we see a progression from our “living hope” in Jesus’ resurrection at the point of our belief to the “salvation of our souls” as we become more like Christ. Our trials are the part of this process that shapes us for this end goal of our faith. We can choose to use trials to become better or remain bitter. It is because we know our trials are shaping us toward the salvation of our souls that we can have joy even in the midst of them.

Passage: 1 Peter 1:1-9

Discuss It:

1. Geoff shared a humorous story of losing his footing in the ocean. Share a story when you have felt it difficult to literally stand still.
2. In what areas of your life currently do you feel it difficult to stand?
3. **Read 1 Peter 1:3-9.** What is the hope Peter says Christians have? Why do you think he describes it as “living” (v. 3)?
4. What causes us to experience an “inexpressible joy” (v. 8)?
5. When you go through trials, do you tend to rely more on God’s mercy or on your faith?
6. Why do you think trials are necessary for sanctification, the process of becoming more like Christ?
7. Geoff noted that sometimes God seems to send us the same type of trials continually in order that we might learn a specific lesson. What trials seem to appear over and over again in your life?
8. **Read Galatians 5:19-23.** In what areas of your life have you seen sanctification progress? In what areas have you resisted God’s sanctification?
9. How have you been changed or what lessons have you learned from previous trials in your life?

Apply It:

- What is the one thing you need to take away from this study?
- What will help you remember it?
- Is there anything that needs to change in your thinking, actions, or relationships as a result?