

**Life Group Notes**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Speaker:** Andy McCullough

**Title:** Your fire-tested faith

**Passage:** 1 Peter 1:1-9

In verse 2 we see the Triune God (Trinity):

- The Loving Plan of the Father
- The Activity of the Holy Spirit
- The Lordship of Jesus Christ

This is the expanded in verses 3-9.

Due to The Loving Plan of the Father (3-4) we are given new life, a living hope (now) and a precious inheritance (future), according to his great mercy.

The Activity of the Spirit (5-7) is involved in guarding you through faith. "Guarded" can mean "kept from escaping" (prison guard), or "kept safe" (body guard). For us, it is both! What the Lord has initiated in the life of the believer, he is determined to bring to completion.

Our culture says trials weaken you. And they do weaken flesh, but they strengthen faith. Your fire-tested faith is precious. John Calvin, "Peter has taken an argument for consolation from the design of God."

The outcome (goal, objective, end-point) of our faith is The Lordship of the Son (8-9).

What do we learn from these verses? Peter is seeking to give the scattered believers confidence. He shows how the triune God, Father, Spirit and Son is involved in their journey:

- Past: Beginning of your journey is the Loving Plan of the Father (foreknowledge, causing us to be born again)
- Present: Throughout our journey we know the Active Power of the Holy Spirit; working in us but also guarding us
- Future: Our future destination is the Lordship of Jesus, an inheritance that he is keeping for us.

And yet, perhaps unexpectedly, these first verses focus repeatedly on our faith.

- God's power guards us through faith
- Our fire-tested faith is more precious than gold
- We shall obtain the outcome of our faith, the salvation of our souls.

This stress on our faith gives to the believer dignity, agency. We are not just passive passengers being carried through life, we engage with God in our salvation journey through faith.

**Questions:**

1. Do you have a favourite verse in 1 Peter?
2. How does this passage give you confidence as a believer?
3. Is there anything here that you find difficult to understand/confusing?
4. Are you going through any "trials"/difficulties at the moment? How can we support you, pray for you?
5. Do you agree that difficulties and pain can make your faith stronger? How do you think that happens?
6. In what do you think the Holy Spirit is working in your life right now?