

Dear Discouraged - Part 1

"No Matter What"

Pastor Bill Bush
February 8, 2009

BIG IDEA:

No matter what happens
to you remember
God's amazing grace !

WHAT TO REMEMBER ABOUT GOD'S GRACE WHEN DISCOURAGED

1 Peter 1:1-12

No matter what happens...

1. GOD WILL ALWAYS LOVE ME! vs. 2a

Why? He chose me

"...for it is his boundless mercy that has given us the privilege of being born again so that we are now members of God's own family"
vs. 3a (LB)

2. GOD WILL ALWAYS HELP ME! vs. 2b

"May God bless you richly and grant you increasing freedom from all anxiety and fear." vs. 2c (LB)

What about my current problems? vs. 7

3. GOD WILL ALWAYS HOLD ON TO ME! vs. 4-6

Peter's conclusion: vs. 6 & 12

"...Do you realize how fortunate you are? Angels would have given anything to be in on this." 1 Peter 1:12b (TM)

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SHARPEN THE POINT
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For further study of today's message

ENTRY POINT: **1 Peter 1:1-12** tells us that our suffering has a purpose. *No matter what* we are going through, we are surrounded by God's love and there is wonderful joy ahead! Begin your study by reading the Book of Ruth in your Old Testament.

In the midst of your trials or grief, when have you felt bitter or abandoned by God? Have you let that bitterness blind you to opportunities or chosen to trust God's faithfulness. Discuss.

How do difficulties affect your relationships? When has God led you to something or someone who changed your life? What was the result?

The real test of our faith comes when times are bad. Think of a time when God's way did not appear to be the easier (the world's) way. What path did you choose and what did you learn from your decision?

Describe a time in your life when something difficult or tragic is now obvious to you as part of God's plan to bless you and draw you closer to Him.

"So if your faith remains strong after being tried by fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world."

1 Peter 1:7b