

Week 31
207/158

Transforming Daily
“ . . . kept by the power of God through faith . . . ”
1 Peter 1:5

Peter was considered to be one of the “pillars” of the church, the Apostle to the Jews (Galatians 2:7-9). In 1 Peter, he reminds the believers not to fret over the changing circumstances that were most certainly challenging their faith and confidence in God. Part of the changes included persecution for their belief in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, cultural indifferences as they were being moved from their familiar surroundings to that of others, and the ever presence of false teachers and false teachings. On the other hand, because of the believers’ “dispersion” (1 Peter 1:1) the gospel was spreading further and faster than it had before they began to experience their temporary and various trials.

The “trials” Peter refers to are the backdrop for the letter, but it is the believer’s faith and hope that Peter targets. He knows that it is enough to sustain them through their immediate circumstances, and for that matter, every situation that lay ahead of them. Peter spoke of the power of God for salvation to be the believer’s security. The short version of Peter’s message is basically that the believer belongs to God through faith and no matter the circumstances, though presently being tried and tested, they will continue to belong to Him by His power,.

In the late 70s I worked for a telephone company in Tampa, Florida. All of the employees kept their tools in a common cabinet in their individual toolboxes. It was customary that for every jobsite that an employee worked they would label their toolbox with the name of that location like, “Tampa Main,” “Clearwater Central,” “St Petersburg Exchange,” etc. I had never worked with the company anywhere but there. In addition, I was the newest and youngest employee, easy pickin’s for practical jokes, and on top of that, I was a vocal Christian. One day I went to the cabinet to get my toolbox, and when I opened the cabinet, there was my toolbox labeled with names like, “Pearly Gates, New Mexico,” “Holy Waters Utah,” “Billy Graham Crusade,” and “Heaven.” At first, I was livid. I was upset that someone would mess with my stuff and mock my testimony and witness. But then my boss, a believer and family friend, said, “Calm down, they are only messing with you, besides, you should take it as a compliment that you are obviously getting through to them.”

Maybe you are working in an environment that is hostile to Christians. Stay the course. It is only for a little while, and God is using you. Remember, you are kept by the power of God through faith.