

# Evolution Of Faith

## Week 4: “Evolve To Inexpressible Joy”

**Weekly Summary:** Too often Christians see joy as something that has to wait until heaven. But Peter tells us that we can be filled with an inexpressible right here and right now as faith fills us with the joy of knowing Jesus as our Savior.

- ◆ 1 Peter 1:8 - Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.
  
- ◆ 1 Peter 1:8-9 - Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
  
- ◆ Salvation: To be rescued from **sadness**.
  
- ◆ To God’s elect who have been chosen...God has given us new birth...You are shielded by God’s power...You were redeemed...You have been born again...You have tasted that the Lord is good...The one who trusts in Jesus will never be put to shame...You are a chosen people...You are a royal priesthood...You are a holy nation...You are God’s special possession...God called you into his wonderful light...You have received mercy...Christ suffered for you...Jesus bore our sins on the cross...By Jesus’ wounds you have been healed...You have returned to the Shepherd of your souls...Christ suffered to bring you to God...Baptism now saves you...Baptism is the pledge of a clear conscience towards God...Baptism saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ...The Spirit of glory and of God rests on you...You will receive the crown of glory...God cares for you...God called you to his eternal glory...God will restore you...God will make you strong...God will make you steadfast...Peace to all of you who are in Christ. (1 Peter, selected verses)

- ◆ Homework: **Personalize** passages.

### **Points to Ponder**

1. Put your name in place of the “you’s/yours” in 1 Peter 1:3-9. Which phrase jumps out as particularly powerful?
2. Read about Paul’s inexpressible joy in 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. How did Paul feel about his weakness and suffering after getting a glimpse of Jesus? How does this apply to the tough situations you are facing in your life?
3. Challenge: When you are suffering this week, say, “STP,” Pastor Ski’s famous phrase that stands for “short-term pain.” Remind yourself that this life is short, but because of Jesus, happiness is eternally long.

### **Homework For Next Week: John 15:9-17**

*“When large numbers of people share their joy in common,  
the happiness of each is greater because each adds fuel to the other’s flame.”  
~ Augustine*