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Daily Devotional - Thursday, March 14, 2019 - Our Source of Hope in Trials

MARCH 14TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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1 Peter 1:3-9

Are you presently going through any difficulties? Maybe you're experiencing a trial so intense that you wonder whether it's possible to survive. Or perhaps you're troubled by a particular hardship that drags on with no end in sight. And sometimes it's the small, daily problems and stresses that wear us down and cause us to become discouraged.

Whatever the source of our adversity may be, Peter offers insight to help us recover hope and joy. He reminds us:

- *God has reserved an inheritance for us in heaven, which is imperishable, pure, and eternal (1 Peter 1:3-5). We must lift our eyes upward instead of focusing on our troubles. If we've placed all our hopes in this life, trials will continue to lead us to despair. But as children of God, we have an inheritance that will far outweigh any temporal suffering.*

- *God is in control of our trials. Nothing comes our way randomly. Our loving Father ensures that our tribulations accomplish His unique purpose for each one of His children. He is sovereign over every adversity, including its duration, which is "for a little while" when compared to eternity (1 Peter 1:6).*

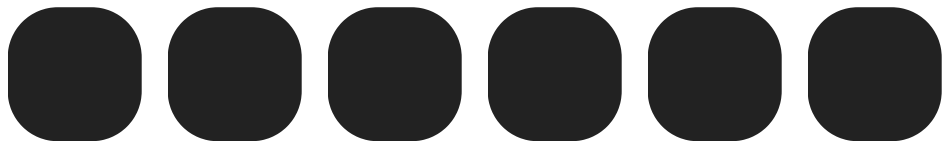
• *God uses trials to strengthen our faith. Jesus said those who don't truly believe fall away when afflictions arise (Matt. 13:20-21). To go through suffering and remain true to Christ testifies to others about our salvation. And each test makes our faith stronger.*

So, how should we respond in trials? Peter says we are to rejoice in our eternal hope, endure hardships, love Jesus, and keep trusting Him.

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