



ONE

READ through 1 Peter 1:3-16.
READ them again and underline the words/phrases which stand out to you.
READ what you've underlined.

*What (if anything) do these different words and phrases have in common?
 Is there a particular thought or idea which stands out? Why do these specific words, phrases, or ideas stand out?*

TWO

READ 1 Peter 1:3-7.
*Though we suffer grief in all kinds of trials, according to Peter, what is our hope?
 What kind of hope does he say it is?
 What does it mean that our hope is a "living hope?"*

*In the weekend message,
 Adam mentioned that the word used for mercy doesn't simply convey the idea of God relenting or not punishing, but rather the concept of God's kindness, steadfast love, loyalty, faithfulness, reliability, and loving-kindness.*

*What does it mean to you that God's mercy includes His loyalty to us?
 His reliability? His steadfast love, amidst the suffering, grief, and trials?*

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
 for his compassions [mercies] never fail.
 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
 Lamentations 3:22-23

WRITE a prayer to our merciful Father.
 Thank Him for the mercy of His...

... **KINDNESS.**
 ... **LOYALTY** to us, His children.
 ... **RELIABILITY.** We can depend on Him.

**Morning after morning, night after night,
 our Father is merciful toward us.
 Praise Him for His living hope!**

THREE

*What do you think when you hear the phrase **struggling well**?
 What does it look like to struggle well? We may think it's about not hurting any more, or handling the hurt in an acceptable way or in a way which doesn't make others uncomfortable.
 Maybe it sounds like we've swallowed the King James Bible.
 Or perhaps we think it means the struggle should be removed if we can figure out the purpose for our pain and learn the lesson.*

What if the meaning of struggling well is less about the circumstances and more about what's happening to our faith and trust in God?

READ 1 Peter 1:7 and James 1:2-4.
*What do these verses say about our faith?
 What happens to our faith when we struggle well?*

THINK about your own understanding of struggle and suffering.
*Has it changed/grown through this message series or a personal difficulty?
 If so, in what way? Have you found that place of trust and dependence on the goodness of God even in the midst of pain and suffering?
 Is there a hurt or struggle you have been denying?
 If so, will you allow God to begin working in your heart as you face it?*

FOUR

READ 1 Peter 1:8 and Job 19:25-27.
These verses speak to the beautiful power of faith - not with our eyes, or our circumstances, but with an unshakable trust in God and the fact that He is good and His mercies never fail.

This very type of faith was expressed through quote found scratched on a wall in a German concentration camp:

*"I believe in the sun when it isn't shining,
 I believe in love even when I don't feel it.
 I believe in God even when He's silent."*

PRAY:

**Merciful and faithful Father,
 Help me allow the trials, difficulties, and suffering
 in my life to produce an unshakable faith.
 I'm thankful You are good... all the time.**

PRAY:

for those you know who are struggling.