

FALLING FORWARD

All of us encounter hurt and pain in our lives.  
We lack a theology of suffering.

STRUGGLING WELL MAKES ME WHOLE

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy **he has given us new birth into a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,<sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you,<sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.<sup>6</sup> In this you greatly rejoice, **though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.**<sup>7</sup> These have come so that your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.<sup>8</sup> 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,<sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

<sup>10</sup> Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care,<sup>11</sup> trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.<sup>12</sup> It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.<sup>14</sup> As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance.<sup>15</sup> But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;<sup>16</sup> for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

1 Peter 1:3-16

IT BEGINS WITH HOPE

... he has given us new birth into a living hope ...

IT INCLUDES HURT

... though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

SALVATION IS DEEPLY INTERTWINED WITH HURT

We move in the reality of hurt, but toward the reality of hope.

1 Prepare your minds for action.

2 Be self-controlled.

3 Set your hope on the grace to be given when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Be holy as God is holy.

Discipleship is a journey, and we must struggle well.

The Christian life is full of hope and hurt,  
and the holy life denies neither.

NEXT STEPS

**EMBRACE** a biblical theology of suffering.

*Are you denying a hurt?*

*Are you called to enter into another's suffering?*

*Where's your hope?*

Suggested Reading:  
*An Honest Look* by John Stumbo

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