

1 Peter 1:1–12 (NKJV)

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,² elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

³Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.

¹⁰Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace *that would come* to you,¹¹ searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.¹²To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.

Interpretation: *Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.*

1. Why does Peter address his letter to “the pilgrims of the Dispersion”? (v. 1)

2. What is the relationship between election, sanctification and obedience in v. 2? You may wish to compare several English translations of this verse.

3. How has God’s mercy been “abundant” in your life? (v. 3)

4. What do we receive as the result of being “begotten again” by God? (vv. 3–4)

5. According to v. 5, what do you need to do to be “kept”? What does this verse and the prior context suggest about God’s work in your life?

6. When Peter says, “in this you greatly rejoice” in verse 6, what is it that his readers are rejoicing about?

7. What is one purpose for trials, according to vv. 6–7?

8. Why would anyone love someone whom they had never seen? (v. 8)

9. Why does Peter talk about the careful study of the prophets in vv. 10–12?

Application: *Take time to reflect on the implications of 1 Peter 1:1–12 for your own life today.*

10. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?

11. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?
