

## PERSPECTIVE SHIFT

### SCRIPTURE ASSISTANCE

#### 1 Peter 1:1-12

Peter writes his book to a group of Christians who were suffering significantly because of their faith. Christians in Rome and the Roman provinces were wildly misunderstood by the Roman culture, and there was a great cost to following Jesus at that time. They faced constant ridicule, were pushed out of social circles, and faced physical persecution. Some were even thrown to the lions (think of the movie *Gladiator*) for sport.

Peter gives fresh perspective to remind these believers who they are and what God is doing. He reminds them God hasn't abandoned them. In fact, they've been chosen by the Triune God. Peter adds that this has been done with God's foreknowledge, which means that God knew us before He chose us. He knew what we would do and what we would struggle with, and yet, He still picked each of us.

Along with choosing us, Peter tells us God is sanctifying us. Sanctify means to be set apart as unique. It's one of the major ways the Bible describes the process of transformation. When He chose us, He not only saw who each of us was but what we could be. God is a restorer.

Peter then describes what God has given us that can never be taken away, no matter what suffering or persecution we experience. We've been given a new birth, a living hope, and a secure inheritance.

Our first instinct is to want life to be easy. But is that what we really want? If we want to defy gravity and live an elevated life, it means that we want a deep connection to God.

The hard truth is that the only way to get there is through suffering. If you meet a godly person with a solid relationship with God, you will be meeting a person who has suffered.

When difficulty comes, it is really hard to keep perspective. But Peter reminds us a few big things in this passage. You have been chosen by God, and He is committed to your restoration. You may feel like God has allowed everything to be taken from you, but the truth is what you have in Christ is so much more valuable than what the world can take away. You may feel like your trials are random, but they are not. You may feel like God's silence signifies His absence, but He is actually there, waiting for you to reach out to Him.