

## Paradoxes in Peter's First Epistle

A paradox is a self-contradictory statement that seems absurd and yet when understood correctly proves to be well-founded and true. The short book of 1 Peter contains several of these:

◆1) ***I can greatly rejoice even though I am going through extremely difficult trials.*** “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations” (1 Pet. 1:6). The martyrs could sing hymns in the flames!

◆2) ***I can love a Person whom I have never seen.*** “Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory” (1 Pet. 1:8). We see Him through the eyes of faith (Heb. 11:27).

◆3) ***I can live even though I'm dead.*** “Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed” (1 Pet. 2:24). “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me” (Gal. 2:20).

◆4) ***I can be wonderfully blessed even though I am experiencing unjust suffering.*** “But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye” (1 Pet. 3:14). Our joy is not in circumstances (Phil. 4:4).

◆5) ***I can be happy even when ridiculed and insulted because of my connection with Jesus Christ.*** “If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you” (1 Pet. 4:14). They hate the Saviour who is in me (John 15:18-20)

◆6) ***I am scarcely saved, yet I am abundantly saved.*** “If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?” (1 Pet. 4:18). The righteous are saved with difficulty (Matt. 19:23-26), yet what a glorious salvation it is: “To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you” (1 Pet. 1:4; cf. Eph. 1:3).

◆7) ***The way I can be exalted is to be abased and brought low.*** “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time” (1 Pet. 5:6). The way up is the way down! God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble (1 Pet. 5:5).

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)

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