

Small Group Notes 28 May 2017. Theme: "Joy that survives every ordeal"

Key Words: Resurrection, Joy, Holy Spirit, Prayer, Unity

Welcome

- Share with the group one experience or observation from the past week that has given you joy.

Worship

- Read Psalm 47:1-4 then sing a hymn of praise to Jesus.

Word Read 1 Peter 5:5-11

1 Peter is a letter of encouragement written to believers suffering because of their faith.

1. Ask if anyone in the group would like to share an experience of suffering that was a result of their faith?
2. What sorts of thoughts go through our minds when we experience suffering? How is our faith affected?
3. One possible affect is that we wonder if we have chosen the wrong path. We think that life should be easier following the resurrected Jesus. The argument in 1 Peter is that in suffering *"the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire"* (1 Pe 1:7). How has your faith been "refined" through struggle?
4. According to Peter who is the real enemy that causes suffering? It is easy to "demonise" human opponents but Peter exhorts us to see the real enemy. Is that helpful to you?
5. How have you learned to live out verse 7?
6. Peter promises that that the God of grace will "restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast" (11). Where have you seen that take place in your own faith journey?

7. **Works**

- In prayer cast your burdens upon the Lord asking that He would restore, empower, strengthen, and establish you" (5:10).
- Pray for our Pentecost services on the 4th June, asking for a renewed opening of hearts to God's power.