

1 Peter 1:8-9

⁸ Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and rejoice with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ now that you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Berean Study Bible

⁸ Although you have never seen Him, you are loving Him.
And without seeing, you are believing.
And so [you] are rejoicing with an inexpressible joy
and [you] are filled with glory,
⁹ You are receiving the outcome of your faith:
[the] salvation of [your] souls.

My own translation

1

Full salvation. 1 Peter 1:8-9

Salvation of my body

In the future, at the Second Coming.

Salvation of my spirit

In the past, when I truly repent and am converted.

Salvation of my soul

1 Peter 1:9, is continuous. Soul: heart, mind, personality, world view.

My saved soul can grow in love. 8a

My saved soul can grow in trust. 8b

My saved soul can grow in joy. 8c

2

Riding the upward spiral. 1 Peter 1:8-9

I have ever-increasing love v8a, when I...

...look up and see God on His throne.

...look out and see from God's viewpoint.

I have ever-increasing faith v8b, when I...

...reach up and trust God completely.

...reach out and be completely trustworthy.

I have ever-increasing joy v8c, when I...
...reach within and hold God's character.
...reach out and express God's character.

I have ever-increasing glory v8d, when I...
...stop, and spend time in God's presence.
...stop, and are filled with God's presence.

I have ever-increasing evidence of salvation v9, when I...
...practice the out-working of my faith.
...experience the transformation of my soul.

3

Seeing the invisible. 1 Peter 1:8-9

I can't see God with my eyes, but I see enough to love Him. 8a
I love God, giving Him first place in my worship.
I love God, giving Him first place in my planning.

I can't see God with my eyes, but I see enough to believe Him. 8b
I believe God, humbling myself under His Word.
I believe God, obeying the commands of His Word.

I can't see God with my eyes, but I see enough to rejoice in Him. 8c
I rejoice in God, re-telling His wonderful attributes.
I rejoice in God, thanking Him for His gracious provision.

I can't see God with my eyes, but I see enough to be saved by Him. 8d-9
I receive from God, when I place myself in His care.
I receive from God, when I let go of the world.

4

I can see God. 1 Peter 1:8-9

Anyone who has loved has seen God.
God is the source of love. 1 John 4:16 "God is love"
Love is a demonstration of God. 1 John 4:7-8 "...loves is born of God"

Anyone who has trusted has seen God.
God is trustworthy. James 1:17 "no shadow of turning"
My trustworthiness displays God. Titus 2:1-11 "You must... offer salvation"

Anyone who has celebrated has seen God.
God is worthy of my worship. Ps.147:1, Jer.10:7, Rev.4:11
In humility I celebrate others. Proverbs 11:25, Ephesians 4:29

Anyone who is saved has seen God.

I can see God any time. Psalm 19:1, Jeremiah 51:15
I can see God everywhere. Romans 1:20

5

Salvation comes with extra features. 1 Peter 1:8-9

Salvation allows insight. 8a “never seen Him, yet you are...”
Salvation allows love. 8a “you are loving Him”
Salvation allows trust. 8b “you are believing”
Salvation allows joy. 8c “rejoicing with an inexpressible joy”

6

Confident living. 1 Peter 1:8-9

Who I’m respecting. 1:8a
 I love God whom I have never seen. 8a
 I believe God whom I have not seen. 8a

Why I’m rejoicing. 1:8
 I have an inexpressible joy. 8b
 I am filled with glory. 8b

What I’m receiving. 1:9
 I am receiving the outcome of my faith. 9a
 I am receiving the salvation of my soul. 9b

7

It works! Salvation works! 1 Peter 1:8-9

Salvation works, so I prioritise God. 8a “you love Him”
Salvation works, so I trust God. 8a “you believe in Him”
Salvation works, so I rejoice in God. 8b “and rejoice”
Salvation works, so I continue with God. 9 “are receiving”

8

The blind can see, again. 1 Peter 1:8-9

Seeing with the eyes of love. 8a “you are loving Him”

Seeing with the eyes of trust. 8b “you are believing”
Seeing with the eyes of joy. 8c “you are rejoicing”
Seeing with the eyes of glory. 8d “you are filled with glory”
Seeing with the eyes of acceptance. 9 “You are receiving”

9

Don't stop at only half full. 1 Peter 1:8-9

Are your eyes filled with love? 8a “you are loving Him”
Are your hands filled with trust? 8b “you are believing”
Is your heart filled with rejoicing? 8c “you are rejoicing”
Is your future filled with glory? 8d “you are filled with glory”
Is your present filled with salvation? 9 “receiving... salvation”

10

How can I tell if I have authentic faith? 1 Peter 1:8-9

I have authentic faith if I love God. 1:8a
 I love God, if I put Him first in my life.
 I love God, if I serve His people.

I have authentic faith if I trust God. 1:8b
 I trust God, if I let Him have control.
 I trust God, if I serve His people.

I have authentic faith if I rejoice in God. 1:8c
 I rejoice in God, if I thank Him.
 I rejoice in God, if I serve His people.

I have authentic faith if I am filled with glory. 1:8d
 I am filled with God's glory, if I am with Him. (Moses)
 I am filled with God's glory, if I serve His people.

I have authentic faith if I am receiving the outcome of my faith. 1:9
 I am receiving the outcome of my faith, if I display His fruit. (Gal.5:22-23)
 I am receiving the outcome of my faith, if I serve His people.

11

Active faith. Passive faith. 1 Peter 1:8-9

Active faith loves God. 1:8a
Active faith believes God. 1:8b

Active faith rejoices in God. 1:8c
Passive faith fills me with glory. 1:8d
Passive faith gives me faith's outcome. 1:9a
Passive faith saves my soul. 1:9b

12

What I want. What I get. 1 Peter 1:8-9

Things I can't have.

I can never see God. 8a "never seen Him"
I can never measure faith.

Things I must have.

I must have love. 8a "you are loving"
I must have faith. 8b "you are believing"

Things I may have.

I may have joy. 8c "rejoicing"
I may have glory. 8d "filled with glory"

Things I will have.

I will have consequences. 9a "receiving the outcome"
I will have salvation. 9b "salvation of your souls"

Other possible titles

Blind date.
The proof of the pudding is in the eating.
Kicking winning goals. 9a "the goal of your faith"
Do you see what I see?
Did you see that!
Seeing with blind faith.
Living with vision impairment.
What could be better than a leap into the dark?
The heart is bigger than the eyes.
Beyond the visible spectrum.

Quotes and illustrations

Seeing God

⁹ Then Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, ¹⁰ and **they saw the God of Israel**. Under His feet was a work like a pavement made of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself. ¹¹ But God did not lay His hand on the nobles of Israel; they saw Him, and they ate and drank. Exodus 24:9-11. Berean Study Bible

¹⁸ Then Moses said, "Please show me Your glory."

¹⁹ "I will cause all My goodness to pass before you," the LORD replied, "and I will proclaim My name—the LORD—in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

²⁰ But He added, "You **cannot see My face**, for **no one can see Me and live**."

²¹ The LORD continued, "There is a place near Me where you are to stand upon a rock, ²² and when My glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take My hand away, and **you will see My back**; but My face must not be seen." Exodus 33:18-23. Berean Study Bible

19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of His hands.

19:2 Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.

19:3 Without speech or language,
without a sound to be heard,

19:4 their voice has gone out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.

Psalm 19:1-4a. Berean Study Bible

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is at the Father's side, has made Him known. John 1:18. Berean Study Bible

not that anyone has seen the Father except the One who is from God; only **He has seen the Father**. John 6:46. Berean Study Bible.

Both uses of the word "seen" is the base word ὁράω [Strong's 3708] meaning "perception, discernment, understanding", but merely a physical sighting.

If you had known Me, you would know My Father as well. From now on you do know Him and **have seen Him**. John 14:7

^{1:18} The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. ^{1:19} For what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ^{1:20} For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities, His eternal power and divine nature, have been **clearly seen**, being understood from His workmanship, so that men are without excuse... ^{1:28} Furthermore, since they did **not see** fit to acknowledge God, He gave them up to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done...

Romans 1:18-20, 28. Berean Study Bible

The Son is the image of the **invisible** God, the firstborn over all creation. Colossians 1:15 BSB

He alone is immortal and dwells in unapproachable light. **No one has ever seen Him, nor can anyone see Him.** To Him be honour and eternal dominion! Amen. 1 Timothy 6:16. BSB

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God remains in us, and His love is perfected in us. 1 John 4:12. Berean Study Bible

If anyone says, "I love God," but hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love **God, whom he has not seen.** 1 John 4:20. BSB

There are none so blind as those who will not see.

Those who leave everything in God's hand, will come to see God's hand in everything.

Commentary

In approaching these verses, I asked myself the question:

In 1 Peter 1:8-9, which verse is cause, and which is effect, or is there another alternative?

Could it be, Option A.

"...you love ...you believe ...you rejoice ...you are filled" v8 **because** "You are receiving..." v9
Which would make v9 the foundation, and v8 the consequence.

Or, could it be, Option B.

"...you love" ...etc v8 **and in this way** "You are receiving..." v9
Which would make v8 the foundation, and v9 the explanation.

Or, could it be, Option C.

v9 is a **continuation** of v8

Therefore, all of those "you..." statements in v8 and v9 are co-extensive, or sequential.

Or, could it be, Options D, E, or F.

My friend, David, directed me to this commentary:

Because the present participle κομιζόμενοι depends for its temporal understanding on the tense of the principal verb (in this case ἀγαπάτε and ἀγαλλιᾶσθε), it must be understood here as describing a present activity and is probably best understood in a causal sense: you are to love and rejoice because you are obtaining the goal of your faith. That it has a future orientation is nevertheless not to be denied; σωτηρία is here an eschatological term. The sense is that Christians now obtain by faith what they will only fully enter into at the end; the power of the new age is already at work and allows Christians in their present plight nevertheless to experience something of the eschatological joy awaiting them.

Achtemeier, P. J. (1996). *1 Peter: a commentary on First Peter*. (E. J. Epp, Ed.) (p. 104). Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.

To which David concluded:

Taking the lead from Paul J. Achtemeier you could say that the certain of a person's destiny can certainly provide them with the meaning and purpose to life... It is clear that it is whole passage is focussed primarily on the perfecting of our faith, and that rather than 'cause' we should see verse 9 as the 'result'.

Glory is one of Peter's favourite words, with 20 occurrences in 1 & 2 Peter. The word 'glory' and its cognates, 'glorious', 'glorify', and 'glorified' reoccur in these verses

1 Peter 1:7, 1:8, 1:11, 1:21, 1:24, 2:12, 4:11, 4:11, 4:13, 4:14, 4:14, 4:16, 5:1, 5:4, 5:10.

2 Peter 1:3, 1:17, 1:17, 2:20, 3:18.

1 Peter 1:8 ends with the words, "...and [you] are filled with glory" What is this glory that fills us? "He called you to this through our Gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Thessalonians 2:14

Music and songs

Songs about loving God / Jesus

Do this in love for Me (Lord's Supper). SiS 284

I looked for love. Ot 77

I love You, Lord. 243 / SiS 419

I'll still love You (Crouch). Item

Love the Lord your God with all you heart. Ot 19

My Jesus I love Thee. I know Thou art mine. H 443

Songs about seeing with the eyes of faith

Blessed assurance... Visions of rapture... (blind hymnwriter, Fanny Florance) H 687

I can see (Meece). Item

I walk by faith. Ot 32

Open my eyes that I may see. H 680

The heavens shall declare (Bullock). 537

Songs about rejoicing

Joyful joyful we adore Thee. H 1

Rejoice in the Lord, O let His mercy cheer. H 733

Rejoice, Rejoice Christ is in you. SiS 614

Rejoice the Lord is King. H 181

We rejoice in the grace of God. Item

You shall go out in joy... Trees of the field (Isaiah 55:12)

Songs about being filled with glory.

Glory, Jesus, glory. You do the fighting for me.

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. Is it possible for a person with a serious vision impairment to fall in love with a person they will never be able to see? Why/why not?
 2. How is it possible for a Christian to love Christ when He has never been seen?
 3. List some advantages, and disadvantages, of not seeing God.
 4. All believers have the Holy Spirit (Galatians 4:6), and the fruit of the Spirit includes joy (Galatians 5:22), so how can rejoicing be optional, and why are we told to do it (Philippians 4:4)?
 5. Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. How do we build with each material?
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