

Title: "Joy in Difficulties"

Text: 1 Peter 1:6-9

Date: July 28, 2024

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at [mercyhillchurch.org](http://mercyhillchurch.org).



## Big Idea

In the midst of trials & difficulties, we can rejoice and have hope because of God's present - and future -- mercy to us through Jesus Christ.

### 1. R\_\_\_\_\_ in the Midst of D\_\_\_\_\_ (vv.6, 8b)

(cf. James 1:2, Romans 5:3a, 1 Corinthians 12:26, Hebrews 12:1-2)

- Difficulties are the n\_\_\_\_\_ in (the Christian) life -- even when we are being f\_\_\_\_\_ and f\_\_\_\_\_ God!

- Holding onto the t\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. "b\_\_\_\_\_") of the Christian life/faith

### 2. Why? Knowing God is R\_\_\_\_\_ of Our Faith (v.7a)

(cf. James 1:3-5, Genesis 50:20, Acts 14:20-22, Romans 5:3-5)

- Having a g\_\_\_\_\_ mentality (p\_\_\_\_\_ over p\_\_\_\_\_)
- Knowing who God is: s\_\_\_\_\_, good, j\_\_\_\_\_, and loving (see Habakkuk Sermons: "When God Digs a Ditch: Turning Evil for Good, parts 1 & 2)

### 3. Why? Because of Our F\_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus (v.8a)

(cf. Luke 7:1-10, John 20:29)

- The Christian life b\_\_\_\_\_ with faith and c\_\_\_\_\_ with faith
- We don't just see the difficulties in f\_\_\_\_\_ of us, but we see Jesus b\_\_\_\_ us and b\_\_\_\_\_ us

### 4. How? By K\_\_\_\_\_ The E\_\_\_\_\_ in Mind (vv. 7b, 9)

(cf. Romans 5:1-5, 2:7-10, 29, 1 Corinthians 4:5)

- Remembering difficulties are t\_\_\_\_\_ in light of e\_\_\_\_\_ glories
- Knowing our eternal d\_\_\_\_\_ and d\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ



## Reflection Questions

- How do you typically react to difficulties or trials in life? Why? What does that reveal about your perspective(s) or heart?
- How does this morning's passage help you to reframe your perspective on difficulties or trials in life?
- In what ways have you been trying to find the perfect balance instead of living with the tensions of the Christian life (and faith)?
- In what ways have you perhaps lost sight of eternity (and Jesus) and instead have fixed your eyes on the immediate, present realities?
- Is there someone you know who is facing difficulties and perhaps needs to hear or be encouraged by this passage? Pray for them and consider sharing with them!
- **Parent Corner:** What is your child's perspective on difficulties? How do they react to setbacks? Are there ways you as a parent might tend to minimize or shield your child from difficulties? What are some ways you can impart to your child a biblical view of difficulties – in light of eternity?

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## Our Mission & Values

*Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.*

**FAITH:** The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate relationship with him. This value presses our church *upwards* in love for God.

**COMMUNITY:** The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. This value presses our church *inwards* in love for the

**MISSION:** The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our church *outwards* in love for the

**Neighbor** | We are the Family of Christ, created and brought into covenantal relationship with him. This value presses our one another.

**Back to City** | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.

## Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.  
We are so glad you've joined us today!

## Announcement Spotlight

### All Church Campout & Worship Service Next Weekend!

We'll be hosting an All Church Campout at Mount Madonna County Park over the weekend of August 2nd-4th! We have a huge group campsite all to ourselves and lots of options in the park for having fun together. Whether you love to camp or you'd rather still sleep in your own bed, we have something for everyone. Because the park is only a 45 minute drive from south San Jose, people can feel free to come and go as it works with their schedule and preference.

**Option #1: Day-Use:** For those not wanting to camp but still wanting to participate, the Day-Use option is best. You can come in for the day, enjoy activities, meals, etc., and then head home to your warm bed while the rest of us "rough" it : ).

**Option #2: Camp:** This option is for those who want the full camping experience. We have the site for Friday and Saturday nights. You can choose to camp for one or both of these depending upon your availability and desire.

In addition, we will be holding our Sunday Worship Service at Mount Madonna County Park next Sunday at our usual 10 am start time. We will be providing a free bbq lunch after service.

Please make sure to RSVP by this evening if you are planning on attending any portion of our All Campout and/or Sunday Worship Service.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at [info@mercyhillchurch.org](mailto:info@mercyhillchurch.org)

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