

1 Peter 1:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

Analysis

Peter identifies the goal toward which believers' faith and joy tend. "Receiving" (*komizomenoi*, κομιζόμενοι) is a present middle participle indicating continuous action: believers are presently receiving, obtaining, carrying away what is theirs. This suggests both present and future aspects of salvation—believers currently experience salvation's benefits while awaiting its consummation. The phrase "the end of your faith" (*to telos tēs pisteōs hymōn*, τὸ τέλος τῆς πίστεως ὑμῶν) uses *telos* (τέλος) meaning both termination and goal/purpose—faith's ultimate aim, its intended outcome. The explicative phrase "even the salvation of your souls" (*sōtērian psychōn*, σωτηρίαν ψυχῶν) identifies this goal precisely. "Salvation" (*sōtēria*, σωτηρία) encompasses deliverance from sin's penalty (justification), power (sanctification), and presence (glorification). "Souls" (*psychōn*, ψυχῶν) refers to the whole person—not Greek dualism divorcing soul from body, but Hebrew wholistic view of human personhood. Peter presents salvation as faith's guaranteed outcome, not uncertain possibility. Just as seed contains inherent potential to produce fruit, genuine faith inherently produces salvation—not because faith earns salvation, but because saving faith is God's gift inevitably reaching its divinely intended goal.

Historical Context

In Greco-Roman philosophy, particularly Platonism, salvation meant the soul's liberation from material body to achieve union with the divine through knowledge (*gnōsis*). Peter's gospel radically differs: salvation is not escape from physicality

but restoration of whole person—body and soul—to fellowship with God through Christ's atoning work. For first-century believers facing martyrdom, this assurance was crucial: physical death couldn't prevent faith from achieving its goal (salvation of souls). The present tense "receiving" provided comfort amid persecution—even now, while suffering, they were obtaining salvation's benefits: forgiveness, peace with God, Spirit's indwelling, assurance of eternal life. Early Christian confidence in face of death perplexed Roman authorities who expected terror, not joy. The explanation: believers knew death couldn't prevent them from receiving faith's ultimate goal.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does understanding salvation as faith's certain outcome (not uncertain hope) affect your assurance and joy in Christ?
2. In what ways are you currently 'receiving' (present tense) salvation's benefits, and how does this foretaste strengthen hope for full salvation at Christ's return?

Interlinear Text

κοιζόμενοι	τὸ	τέλος	τῆς	πίστεως	ὑμῶν	σωτηρίαν
Receiving	G3588	the end	G3588	faith	of your	even the salvation
G2865		G5056		G4102	G5216	G4991
ψυχῶν						
of your souls						
G5590						

Additional Cross-References

Romans 6:22 (Parallel theme): But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

James 1:21 (Salvation): Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Hebrews 11:13 (Faith): These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.