

As we start, I want to remind you that this letter is written to those who reside as “aliens”—to those who have been temporarily assigned to this world but do not belong to this world. This is a theme the Spirit through Peter is going to hammer home over and over again throughout this book. In fact, most the instruction in this letter is about our learning to practically live as aliens in this world looking to God, instead of the world, to define our identity, our value, our worth, and our purpose. I am convinced the Spirit desperately desires us to practically seize and take hold of this separation which God has made between us and those who live—who make their abode—in this world. We have seen the Spirit press on us this issue in *Ephesians*, *Hebrews*, *Revelation*, and most recently in *Haggai*. We are separate, we are distinct, we do not belong here, and we must start living as if this is our truth. All the places deep within our soul which tempt us to look to this world to be our validation, our provision, and our hope must be replaced with Jesus. That is a theological statement, an intellectual statement, an emotional statement, and an experiential statement. Who we are in Jesus must replace who we are in this world; hence, the Spirit opened up with a powerful exultation intended to convince us, excite us, and motivate us to adopt His perspective of this life.

1 Peter 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Our perspective of life, and most especially the things we must endure during our temporary assignment, needs to be reshaped such that we can have the Lord's perspective on all things. That is why the first thing the Spirit does is immediately focuses our attention on the glory of our salvation and the intense magnificence of our inheritance. He wants us to have full and complete confidence that as joint heirs with Jesus Christ we will receive and have title to all that the Father gives to the Son. If you have not already, I encourage you to go back and re-listen to last week's teaching on these verses, and let these truths be present in your daily thoughts and musings; it will keep you safe.

1 Peter 1:6-7

In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ....

Oh yes, trials; something with which we are so intimately familiar and the reason why we usually just ignore statements like "you greatly rejoice." Eh, we can just skip over that one; it doesn't really apply to us. We're not sure who it

applies to but we are convinced it is not us. With all seriousness, it is not entirely clear whether the phrase “In this you greatly rejoice” refers to the response we should have knowing that we are firmly rooted in our salvation and that our inheritance is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away, or if it is connected with this next thought about trials. I tend to think it is tied to the later and is part of the requisite perspective shift the Spirit wants us to adopt in terms of how we view our trauma and troubles. Think about what the Spirit is saying or rather how He is saying this. He is literally making a comment or a statement on what should be our experience—our emotional and mental reality. And He is not just talking about “rejoicing,” but ***much*** rejoicing. In the Greek it’s a statement that reads: “In this you are jumping up and down with joy.”

Now get this, “greatly rejoice” is in the *present middle indicative*. The *present* tense means this great rejoicing is what we are doing in our now. The *middle* voice, however, indicates that it is not a perspective that is given to us (for that would be in the *passive* voice) and it is not something we are found doing (for that would be the *active* voice); rather, it is something that willingly comes from within our being—a choice we make—presumably as a fruit of having the Spirit’s perspective on our being aliens in this world. The *indicative* means that it is a statement of fact and there is no subjectivity in this statement. This is a proclamation that describes us (or at least it should).

And what are we rejoicing over? In this: that our faith may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. I want you to note that “may be found” is in the *subjunctive* mood. This means that the result is not guaranteed; however, the implication of the text is that if we let the fire of God’s

purification do its work in our lives, it will result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As the Father exalted the Son above all of creation, so shall those whose faith is proved. It is a fantastic promise; but again it is not a guarantee; it is an opportunity.

I find it really odd that the Spirit expresses “greatly rejoice” in this way. If I were writing this, based on everything I have experienced in my life and with others, I would have put it in a *future middle subjunctive* meaning that, maybe one day in the future—possibly when we get to heaven—we might greatly rejoice over our reward regardless of the troubles and trauma we had to endure in our lives. After all, who do you know where this statement, “In this you greatly rejoice,” actually defines their lives? Who is looking at their life and all the complexities and drama and struggles and is still jumping up and down with joy?

I tell you who: 1) Those who truly understand that they are on a temporary assignment in this world—sent on a mission from God; 2) Those who know this life will not last and are fully aware that our troubles and distresses are only for a little while; 3) Those who have been tested and whose faith has been proven precious, as such they are found not just standing strong but more committed and enmeshed with Jesus than they ever were before; 4) Those who know that while others look to this life to provide them their value, worth, identity, place, position, and so on, it will never satisfy and can never satisfy because those hopes are built on a lie—whereas those who “greatly rejoice” know they have a living hope that is as much about their eternity as it is about their now; 5) Those who are convinced that their future holds glory, honor, and praise but are now also experiencing joy, peace, rest, intimacy, and great power; and 6) Those who know

that with each testing of their faith that they are given the opportunity to experience more and more of God.

It is clear that the Spirit intends us to so indulge ourselves in these truths such that they literally alter and transform how we think about everything. We are to live in the transitory reality of this life and embrace the eternity of our now. With that said, if we are not “greatly rejoicing” it is pretty clear that we do not see ourselves, this life, and this world as the Spirit desires. If complaint, moaning, grumbling, and discouragement are still your default modes of dealing with your life, then—I know I am saying the obvious—you have not chosen to internalize how amazing your salvation and inheritance truly is. And more than that, it is clear that the trials have not yet accomplished their purpose; so, I hate to tell you this, you need more opportunities to learn. You see, the Spirit wants the truth of our living hope (all that has been promised to us in this life and in the life to come), along with who we are and why we are in this world to be internalized to such an extent that everything—and I mean everything—is seen through the lens of what is necessary and what is good. When we can wrap our heads and our emotions around this reality (what is necessary and what is good) then we will be able to see as the Lord desires us to see.

Consider this statement: “even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials.” What does this tell us about God and about our lives? First, God acknowledges that we have been troubled and it has come at us from all angles—“various or diverse trials.” In the Greek, “trials” literally means: putting to proof by experiment. Think about it. This idea of putting something to the test—to prove it out through various experiments—

communicates to us purpose and intention. Therefore, we can know and be assured that the “trials” we have endured and may even now be enduring are not random, incidental, or accidental; rather, they are part of God’s plan for our lives. In fact, they have been and are necessary to our spiritual growth and development.

The Lord also knows and acknowledges that these “tests” continually distress or sadden us (“distressed” is a *participle*). But did you notice that even though we are told to greatly rejoice, there does not seem to be any correction or criticism over the fact that these trials actually distress us. The Spirit is not saying that it is a bad thing that these “proofs to test your faith” sadden you and cause anguish. I believe the Spirit is affirming that it is normal and is something to be expected. Keep in mind, they would not be very good experiments to prove out our faith if they did not distress us. Therefore, please do not take the statement, “In this you greatly rejoice,” to be a slap in the face if you are distressed over what you may be going through; that is not the point. Our ability to “greatly rejoice” as a way of life is going to be discovered in and through these distressing trials not separate from them.

What is God proving out by these “necessary” experiments? It is clear that all that we go through is about proving out our faith. That is the calculated purpose and intention behind our trials. You see faith is an interesting spiritual concept. It exists almost as a standalone entity; for lack of better words, it is the vehicle by which we get to experience God. According to **Romans 12:3**, all men have been given a measure of faith. But faith also needs to be exercised and proven out before a person ever can understand the power and strength that is actually

theirs through faith. It is very similar to a muscle. You have it, but if it sits idle it will atrophy and decay and you will be extremely weak. As Alek taught us when he was teaching **2 Timothy 2:4-6**, a muscle can degrade within days of inactivity. Therefore, God brings forth these “experiments” to keep our faith strong and capable. Hence, that is why it seems that we are always going through something. In our text, it says “if necessary” but in the Greek it says “if need be” and both “need” and “be” are verbs. Not surprisingly, “need” is in the *present active participle*, so it communicates that there is always an ongoing real-time need for these trials. And “be” is in the *present active indicative*, so this always present “need” is to be understood as a fact (hence, the *indicative*); it is always going on because it is something we absolutely always need. Sorry, but that is how quickly faith, like a muscle, can degrade if not actively exercised.

Let’s discuss this idea of proving out our faith. Faith in itself has capability; it has been fully loaded. We just need to learn the lengths and depths of this capability so we can experience all that God has for us to experience “by faith.” We have talked about faith so much in this body, but it is important that we review and make sure that when we talk about the word “faith” that we are all on the same page.

In wrestling though the passages in **Hebrews 1:1-6**, I came up with a working definition of faith. Faith is exercised when we **actively believe the truth**. All three aspects of this equation are necessary for faith to work its purposes in our lives. If we actively believe a lie, we may be fully convicted and enthusiastic about the lie but still it will be unable to provide what it promises as the lie is empty and powerless. We can also know the truth but not really believe it. It may be just one

of the options out there for us to consider but by no means something to bet our lives upon. Thus, our knowledge of the truth is practically worthless to our lives since we don't really believe it. Finally, we can believe the truth but if we are not active in it, if we don't bet our lives upon it, the truth becomes merely head knowledge and an expression of our religious-selves, but it will be worthless in our ability to experience and know God. We must therefore *actively believe the truth*. We must bet our lives upon all that God has said about Himself, all that He has said about us, about this world, and about everything else He has revealed.

This definition of faith should bring to light why it is necessary that you endure and become distressed by various trials. God is teaching you how to actively believe the truth; that is the goal of each experiment or proof that He takes you through. With each test, the Lord intentionally pushes on another area in your life where fear is in control (and not faith) and in response to this fear you have chosen to be the "lord" of your own life taking matters into your own hands on a spiritual, emotional, mental, and a very practically level. But each such experiment is set up to reveal to you an aspect of God's character and nature—something in which He wants you to actively believe. Therefore, the situation is set up by your sovereign Lord and in this trial He gives you the opportunity to choose to believe that He is Lord and that He is good and someone who can be trusted in this area of fear.

He uses these proofs as an opportunity for you to practically know that Jesus is your provider, your deliverer, your defense, your Almighty, your peace, your shepherd, your guide, your righteousness, and so on. These are concepts we talk about, we sing about, we read about, and even journal about, but Jesus wants

them to be your truth all the time. You see, Jesus wants to possess every area of your life; He literally wants to live through you. He is your Lord and He wants you to know Him as Lord. But you are never going to provide Him access to these deep places of your soul unless you actively believe that He is who He says He is despite what you may see, think, or feel in this world. The Lord uses these proofs to get you to disconnect from your view and your opinion of your own tangible experiences such that you are willing to trust in the Lord, wait on the Lord, and not move until He does what He says He will do.

These trials will naturally distress us since they are aimed at dislocating and removing both the fear which has been imbedded deep in our soul and all the ways in which we attempt to do His job. We are all experts at being our own lord and this existence is so entrenched in our being that we are blind to what God wants to accomplish in our lives. We say Jesus is our Lord, but the truth is we all have so much self-protection going on deep in our souls that those are mere words that are more religious than they are real. As a result, we keep people out, restrict intimacy, refuse to trust ourselves to others (all for good reason), and we try to make ourselves safe and secure (whether this is at a conscience or subconscious level). The truth is that our self-protection robs us of the life of love and intimacy that God desires us to experience. And self-protection is just one of the many devices we use which supplant the role of God in our lives.

Practically, we don't let Him be our Lord because in reality we don't want Him to be our Lord because we don't really trust His methods, His intentions, or His outcomes. We have always wanted Jesus to just snap His fingers and change us and have everything be all better, but we have never really wanted to learn how

to choose faith. Thus, not only are these trials distressing, but we get extremely mad and angry at God for what He must take us through. We think it is mean, not fair, not right, not just, and is unloving. I remember going through the thick of my own storm and saying to God: "How can this be love, I would never treat my own kids like this. This is not love, this is cruel and mean and I don't like it." How arrogant and ridiculous I was. I did not know what I was talking about. Thank God for His mercy and for Him graciously not dealing with me as I deserve. The entire time I was stuck in the storm, God was brilliant. He knew that He needed to teach me who He was through the fire. He knew I would not like it, but He also knew it was necessary if I was ever going to make the choice to truly surrender to Him and trust myself to Him actively believing that He is the Lord my God Almighty, my "I Am," everything I truly need. And that was just at the start of the storm. When I needed to learn about whom I am in God, things got really rough.

Now it is important to keep in mind that these various trials may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; but it is not guaranteed. We can go through trail after trail and never really let the fire accomplish its purposes in our lives. We may choose to just fight the Lord, shut down, or downright reject what He is doing. We saw that with the Israelites who refused to cross over the Jordan into the Promised Land. Despite all the miracles they saw and the amazing ways God proved Himself and delivered them from their enemies, they did not trust Him. As a result, the Lord chose to honor their desire to live in the desert fully embracing their fear. And to those who didn't believe, God said, "In my anger I made a vow: 'They will never enter my place of rest'" (**Hebrews 4:3** quoting **Psalm 95:11**). That is why the Lord pleads with us to not harden our hearts against Him. That is why we are instructed in **Hebrews 3:13**

to warn each other every day, as long as it is called “today,” so that none of us will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.

We need to understand, and more importantly accept, God’s purposes with these trials—no matter how many there are or how often they come. Just know that God loves you so much and is so jealous of you that He literally wants to possess you. But to do that He has to convince you to remove everything in your life that stands in the way, all the idols, all the high places, so to speak. He must address all the areas where you trust in yourself instead of trusting yourself in Him. If you understand and accept His purposes, then there is a good chance your faith will be proven, strengthened, and stabilized.

One of my favorite verses in **1 Peter** comes in Chapter **5:10**. It says: “After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.” It is all very personal. It is what He will do. He will perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you; those are some pretty amazing promises. Those are His intended real-time results of you letting the fire have its proper place in your life.

Why is faith so important that God deems it necessary to constantly be working at strengthening and proving it out in our lives? As I said before, faith is the vehicle for our getting to know and experience God. Let’s see what the Bible actually says about faith. I think it is pretty overwhelming.

First of all, without faith it is impossible to please God (**Hebrews 11:6**). Yes, it says impossible. Thus, faith is absolutely necessary. Second, the righteous shall live by faith (**Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38**)—the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God (**Galatians 2:20**)—it is how I

experience the things of the Spirit. Third, our hearts are cleansed and sanctified by faith (**Acts 15:9; 26:18**). Fourth, we are saved through faith (**Ephesians 2:8; 2 Timothy 3:15**). Fifth, we are justified or made right with God by faith (**Romans 3:28-30**). Sixth, faith is how we have obtained our introduction to grace (**Romans 4:16; 5:2**). Seventh, we have obtained our righteousness by faith (**Romans 9:30; Galatians 5:5**). Eighth, by faith we receive the promise of the Spirit that we are sons of God clothed in Jesus Christ (**Galatians 3:14; 22-27**). Ninth, it is by faith that we profit from the Word of God which has been preached to us (**Hebrews 4:2**). Tenth, it is by faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen (**Hebrews 11:3**). Eleventh, it is by faith that we have bold and confident access to the throne of God (**Ephesians 3:12**). Twelfth, it is how we were buried with Christ in baptism and raised up from the dead and made alive together with Him (**Colossians 2:12-13**). Thirteenth, it is how we are protected by the power of God for a salvation to be revealed in the last days (**1 Peter 1:5**); and fourteenth, it is how we inherit the promises of God (**Hebrews 6:12**).

This is why the Spirit says that your faith is more precious than gold. It is the vehicle through which we appropriate for ourselves all that God has given to us, all that He has promised us, and all that we need to navigate this life. Putting all of this together, it is clear that faith is to practically play out in our lives. And we are given so many examples of this reality. According to **Hebrews 11:3-40**, by faith:

1. Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than did Cain.
2. Enoch was taken up or raptured so he would not see death.
3. Noah prepared the ark for the salvation of his household.

4. Noah condemned the rest of the world and he received the righteousness that comes by faith.
5. Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land for he went without knowing where he was going.
6. Abraham lived as an “alien” in this life as did Isaac and Jacob as they were confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth.
7. Sarah was able to have a child though she was barren and so very old— she believed God would keep His promise.
8. Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him.
9. Isaac promised blessings for the future to his sons, Jacob and Esau.
10. Jacob blessed each of Joseph's sons and bowed in worship as he leaned on his staff.
11. Joseph, when he was about to die, said confidently that the people of Israel would leave Egypt.
12. Moses’ parents hid him for three months when he was born thereby disobeying the king’s command.
13. Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter. Rather, he chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin.
14. Moses left the land of Egypt because he kept his eyes on the one who is invisible.

15. Moses commanded the people of Israel to keep the Passover and to sprinkle blood on the doorposts so that the angel of death would not kill their firstborn sons.
16. The people of Israel went right through the Red Sea as though they were on dry ground.
17. The people of Israel marched around Jericho for seven days, and the walls came crashing down.
18. Rahab the prostitute was not destroyed with the people of Jericho who refused to obey God. For she had risked her life on God and hid and protected the spies.
19. Gideon went to war against the Midianites delivering the nation.
20. Barak fought against the king of Canaan delivering the nation.
21. Samson waged war against the Philistines all of his life.
22. Jephthah took charge of the nation and went to war against the Ammonites and conquered them.
23. David provided for us a type of Christ's rule over the people of God.
24. Samuel and the prophets brought to us the words of God despite the dangers of speaking the truth.
25. Others overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight. Women even received their loved ones back again from death.
26. Still others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free; some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips;

some were chained in prisons; some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground.

When you stare at these great expressions of faith, I hope you can start to understand why your faith is precious, priceless, more valuable than gold. The point of this metaphor is to drive separation between you and all that this world has to offer you (to give you the perspective of one who does not belong to this world). The object of highest value and worth in this world is far beneath the value and worth of your faith. That is why God works so hard at proving it out in our lives. He wants us to be like those heroes of old who by faith choose to trust themselves to God and thereby experience His majestic power through our faith. Gold is perishable, but faith is not. **1 Corinthians 13:13** makes it clear that faith will abide throughout all eternity. It will not diminish in value, worth, or power. It will abide. But the best this world has to offer is perishable.

That is why the Lord wants us to completely adopt a different perspective when it comes to the troubles and distresses of our life (no matter how terrible they may be). We are enduring them because of the glorious deeds God wants to do through us as we give Him access to our being. And these are the “good” deeds that will remain and will never perish but will follow us through eternity (after all they are His deeds). Therefore, we can jump for joy confident that if we let each test have its way in our life, we will be stronger in our faith resulting in our experiencing more and more of God and His amazing power.

Let's talk about the means God uses to test our faith—the fire. The thing about fire (sticking with the metaphor of gold), is that at different temperatures it separates different impurities from the gold allowing the smelter to wipe them out thereby purifying the gold. Some impurities are easily removed with low levels of heat, but certain impurities need the most extreme heat to cause the necessary separation between the gold and the impurity. I know it is a horrible and very unpleasant word picture, but it captures it so perfectly. Jesus takes us through troubles and trials at varying degrees of heat knowing exactly what He wants to extract and when. Again, it is all very purposeful (knowing that should bring you comfort). Even what is seemingly the most tragic of experiences can be understood through what God must do to extract the impurities of wrong belief and unbelief from a person's life and thereby purify their faith.

Realistically, however, not everyone lets the fire fulfill its purposes; it is tragic really. That is why the Lord wants you to be convinced that what He is doing is good, marvelous, glorious, and is for your benefit both in your now and in all eternity. He wants you to submit to His methods and adopt His perspective knowing that you are only here for a little while therefore a lot needs to be done in a very short time so you can be the person of faith that He desires you to be so He can do His marvelous deeds through you. Remember, only God is good (**Mark 10:18**); thus, only God can do good works. What we do for God is worthless; but what He does in and through us is good. But understand He does not need you to get things done in this world; rather, He wants to use you so you might experience Him, His power, and the fullness of His love. That is why these trials are good, marvelous, and glorious for they give us the opportunity to know and experience Jesus more intimately.

Besides, the Lord also says that these trials are only for a “little while.” I know that many of you believe you have been in one constant trial your entire life and you are kind of rolling your eyes, scoffing even, at this idea of “a little while.” Well, the Spirit is not exaggerating here. I believe this notion of a “little while” applies a couple of ways. First of all, in view of your eternity this life is nothing, it is a mere breath that quickly vanishes. Sure it feels like we have lived for such a long time, but 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, or even 80 years (if we are given that privilege) is such a puny amount of time in light of an eternity of ruling and reigning with Christ over all of creation. It is nothing. This is a perspective that the Spirit wants us to have. Remember, we are to be convinced we are on a **temporary** assignment. It really is not that long. So the testing’s of this life are really only for a little while.

Second, even though this life seems to be one continually distressing test, I believe that are seasons for this testing—which is another way to translate “a little while.” I have found that God tests me until He accomplishes His purpose in that area of my life and then He brings some rest. He literally perfects, confirms, strengthens and establishes me in that area. And in that particular area I am strong and covered in spiritual armor. The enemy can no longer assail me in that area of my life. I am a conqueror. But then the Lord who loves me so much and desires to have all of me, and in turn for me to have all of Him, turns His spotlight of truth on another area of my life and sets up the next experiment to prove out my faith in that area of my life.

As I have been tested and tested and tested I stand taller and taller and taller and I am becoming like that tree that is firmly planted by living waters; it does not

move no matter how bad the storm. I am becoming like that pillar in the temple of God that is strong and proudly supports all the weight it is given. I am seeing this come true in my life and it has given me reason to jump up and down even though right now my faith is being tested. I hate what I have gone through, I will never forget it, but I am also so thankful for it. Because of my trials and what God has burned out of my life, I get to experience Jesus for real. To me He has become life. He is not just a theology, He is not just a religion, and He is not just my ticket to heaven which I keep in my back-pocket to pull out at the pearly gates. He is my life and I am strong in Him. That is a work of beauty He has accomplished through fire; and in this I can greatly rejoice and jump up and down with joy.

By the way, I am fully convinced that the proof of my faith will result in praise and honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ. I'm not sure what that will look like, but that does not even matter to me. The proof of my faith has become so precious to me in my now that I am glad God is a jealous God and has gone to war against my flesh in order that my spirit may live in Him. This is all good. He is good. And I am thankful He is my Lord and knows exactly what I need. Sure, I still am distressed when I go through fire—it does not get any easier, but I have also learned that I will not be burned up or consumed by the fire. This is a promise He makes to us in ***Isaiah 43:2*** and in this I take great hope. I know what He is doing and why He is doing it; therefore, I can jump up and down with joy knowing I am just an alien getting the opportunity to live like one.

It is all about perspective. Paul says it this way in ***Romans 5:3-5***, “We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character

strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.” Again, these trials, these opportunities to prove out our faith, are for our good; and the Lord guarantees that we will not be disappointed—will not!

In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. In closing I want to read from *Psalm 105*.

Psalm 105:1-7

Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; speak of all His wonders. Glory in His holy name; let the heart of those who seek the Lord be glad. Seek the Lord and His strength [that means we are to embrace and even desire to go through the fire knowing what the result will be]; seek His face continually. Remember His wonders which He has done, His marvels and the judgments uttered by His mouth, O seed of Abraham, His servant, O sons of Jacob, His chosen ones! He is the Lord our God; His judgments are in all the earth.

Let's pray.