

Joseph LaTour  
Temptation Leads to Life  
Zoom Meeting - 3/21/21  
Transcribed by Wendy Sellick

I'm going to be sharing something that I've shared recently in a few different places on Zoom and we were able to also have some meetings up in Alaska at Whitestone and at The Land, so for those of you that have heard it before I almost apologize but not really. Because you know the Lord made it real to me like this, as long as something continues to minister to me, He wants me to continue to share it. So, this is still feeding me and my prayer is that you will receive some encouragement today in the calling that God has on your life to be able to take another step in faith in Him.

I'd like to start in St John 1 and allow the Spirit of God to pull back the curtain and to show us, give us a peek into the way things were before there was anything created. It says in vs 1, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God and all things were made by Him who is the word and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life and that life was the light of men and the light shineth in darkness and the darkness comprehended it not." So, you and I get a picture of Jesus before the foundation of the world when he was with the Father as Proverbs 8 says, "I was with Him in the beginning. I was brought up by Him. I was daily His delight and my delights were with the sons of men." Wow! So much so that as you and I go on down through, something happened in the process of time that the eternal word stepped out of eternity and into time. You can see down in verse 14 something happened and "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory. The glory as of the only begotten son of the Father, full of grace and truth." That which was eternity, that which was eternal stepped out of eternity and into time and took upon Him flesh and a new kind of creature appeared on the earth. And why did He do that? We have a great explanation of this over in Hebrews 2:13. "And again I will put my trust in Him and again, behold, I and the children which the Lord has given me." You need to understand as you listen to this today, I hope that you take this personally, that it's talking to you. That it isn't just some doctrine. This is about you and about Him. You were actually given by the Father to Jesus before the foundation of the world. Can you say Amen to that today? We hear this all the time but the awesomeness of it grips me that you were chosen in Christ. Before you were ever in Adam you were chosen in Christ. And not only that but your names were written in the Lambs Book of Life from the foundation of the world. You came into this world and before you were ever in Adam you were in Christ and when you came into this world you came in with the mark of Christ, "I and the children which the Lord has given me." And he goes on to say in verse 14, "For as much then as the children were partakers of flesh and blood He also Himself likewise took part of the same." He who was the eternal word was made flesh. And the reason that He was made flesh was because the children which the Lord had given Him were partakers of flesh and blood and therefore He himself took part of the same. And the word was made flesh for you and me.

You know I talk about this and I think that sometimes people may think I'm smarter than I really am. So, I want to tell you that I'm really not when I talk about quantum physics. It's really way above my pay grade. I don't really know what I'm talking about. I can quote what I read but I'm amazed by what I see in quantum physics regarding the law of entanglement. And many of you that are smart people who took physics and quantum physics in school, well, you know I boast in a GED and that's about it, folks. But it says this regarding quantum physics. Quantum

entanglement occurs when two particles become inextricably linked and whatever happens to the one immediately effects the other regardless how far apart in either time or space that they are. And you can see the law of entanglement happening throughout the scriptures, especially where it says Adam tripped and we all fell (it doesn't literally say that). That is the law of entanglement that you and I because of one man's disobedience, one participle that happened thousands of years ago effected every human being. They were so inextricably entangled that the nature and the DNA of that fallen man effected every one of us. But I love what 1 Corinthians 5 and I think vs 15 says, but much more because of Jesus's obedience the law of entanglement..yeah we were all born in sin because of Adams fall. But I want to tell you something, the law of entanglement with Christ goes back before the fall. Or what we call the fall. And I guess the question I would say is, was there really? Did God have to do plan B? I don't think so. I don't think God has plan Bs. I think that He took into account the nature of Adam who the Bible says was only the figure of him that was to come. And that He took it all into account, His foreknowledge of everything that was going to happen, and He completed the work before the foundation of the world in a people that were called by His name. And that you and I as long as we continue in faith on this path are going to make it in time to where you already are in eternity. "For as much then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood he also himself likewise took part of the same that through death he might destroy him that hath the power of death, that is to say the devil, and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage for verily he took not on him the nature of angels. But he took on him the word made flesh and he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God to make reconciliation for the sins of the people." He was made in all points like you and I. He was not made like you in your fallen Adam life. But he is made like you and me in our seed of Abraham life. Our born again life. The seed of Abraham are the people that walk in the same faith that Abraham walked in. And so He was made like that so that you and I could be made like Him. The word was in the beginning. So how does that relate to you and I?

Go with me to 1 Peter 1. I want to look first of all at vs 3. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ which according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Now skip down to vs 23, "being born again, not of a corruptible seed but of an incorruptible by the word of God." In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God." And something happens to as many as receives him. There is a birthing that takes place, something new happens. A new creature is born this time not of a corruptible seed but of an incorruptible seed by the word of God. The same word that was in the beginning that was with the Father in the beginning, that was with God and that was God, you are born of today. So I want to submit to you today that inside of you is incorruptible. That your father is holy, that you've been fathered of another seed. An incorruptible seed that is pure, that is holy, that everything your father is, you are in the new man. I want you to keep that in mind as we go along today because I don't think we see ourselves all the time the way God sees us. I know you were born by a corruptible seed in Adam, but you have been born again by an incorruptible, undefiled, eternal, pure, holy. Your father is love and so are you. I'm not talking about Hollywood love. I'm talking about the greater love that no man can have than this, that a man would lay down his life. Love is sacrificial. Love seeks not it's own and that's the nature that you've been born of. I'm telling you who you are today in case you don't know it. Because I think that we need to be reminded.

Go with me to 2 Corinthians 3:1. "Do we begin again to commend ourselves or need we as some others epistles of commendation to you or letters of commendation from you?" And he goes on to tell them who they are. "You are our epistle, written in our hearts, known and read of all men. For as much as you are manifestly declared to be the epistles of Christ." Do you understand what is happening? The same thing that happened in the firstborn. God is not satisfied with it just happening in Jesus. The same thing that happened in the firstborn is happening in the people that are born of an incorruptible seed that even as the word was made flesh there is a people in whom again the word is being made flesh. A people in whom is declared to be the epistles of Christ. You are God's book, known and read of all men. People that will never crack open a Bible can look at your life and if you're living in the spirit, if you're living a surrendered life in the spirit of God, then they can turn the pages and read. And I want to tell you something, you can see that happening over in Revelation 5.

It says there was a book, a little book, in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. And there were catastrophic things that were going on that I want to talk about that I think are happening in our personal lives today. And what happens is the book of your life has been sealed with 7 seals. The book of the life of Christ within you, the epistles of Christ, the seals are blowing off the book of who you are. Because creation is groaning and travailing for this book to be opened. You are manifestly declared to be the epistles of Christ ministered by us, not written with ink, but with the spirit of the living God. Not in tables of stone but in fleshly tables of the heart. The living expression of God. The word was made flesh. And we beheld His glory as of the only begotten of the father full of grace and truth. And brothers and sisters, your destiny and my destiny today is to be conformed to the image of the forerunner, the captain of our salvation. To him who went up in front of all of us and blazed the trail.

I saw a picture the other day. It was a pack of wolves in about 4 or 5 feet of snow and they were moving in single file. There was one who was out there in the lead. The lead wolf was out there and he was having to jump way up out of the snow and come back down and he was blazing a trail. Everyone behind him was able to go a lot easier because of him who went ahead and blazed the path for the rest of them. And I want to tell you something, there's a forerunner that's gone on before us. He has blazed the trail. The way has been made open for you and I, that once again the Word is becoming made flesh in a people, known and read of all men. This time not written with ink but with the spirit of the living God. God is writing in your life and in my life today. You may see yourself as nothing. You may see yourself as a failure. But I want to tell you something. God chooses the things that are weak. There's nothing about you that surprises God, by the way. Can I tell you that today? There's nothing that you ever do or think or say that catches Him by surprise.

Over in Psalms 139, and maybe some of you have heard me say it before but it gives me great encouragement, in vs 16 and I'm going to read it in the Amplified. So listen to this, and please again, take it personal. It's talking about you. The word profits you when it's mixed with faith. It's the seed that conceives when it's mixed with faith. This is for me. Listen to what He says. "Your eyes saw my unformed substance" (Psalms 139:16) "And in your book all the days of my life were written before ever they took shape when as yet there were none of them." The story of your life, brothers and sisters, has already been written. Before there was ever any of them God saw the beginning of your story all the way to the end and that which is called history is really your story, is his story. Because you've been inextricably entangled with Jesus Christ. You're marked. You belong to Him. It was never God's purpose just to have one son. It was always God's purpose and His eternal plan in bringing many sons to glory. And that's why He

would take father Abraham, and set him before you and I, who yearn to have a son and finally out of his own being came a son. God's showing creation what was actually going on inside God himself. The exalted father, the true exalted father, which is what Abram means. But you see in order for this father to go from being an exalted father to an Abraham, the father of a multitude, he had to lay down the one son that he had. And God said this, "Because you have done this your name is Abraham and I will make you the father of a multitude." You see because it was never God's purpose just to have one son. You were His and you were called and you are part of an eternal purpose and plan. You and I have been caught up into the wake of holy desire of the heart of God today. And that is the reason that we're here. That's the reason that we're hungering and pressing on. Your book was written, your days were inscribed in His book before there was ever one of them. Know friends, there's nothing about you that surprises Him. He chooses the weak things. He says, Blessed are the spiritually poor, the poor in spirit. Blessed are those that have nothing in themselves, that need to be dependent upon God to finish this work. If you'll come to Him with your weaknesses, with your warts and bumps and whatever you feel about you, if you come and give yourself to Him and let Him tell you how He sees you today.

Hebrews 11:3, "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God so that the things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Wow! The ages, the worlds, were framed by him who is the Word. Can I ask you a question? Maybe it's a personal question. What's framing your world? How do you see yourself? Do you get your definition from your past rap sheet, from what you know about yourself? Or are you allowing the word of God to frame your world? I'm telling you, don't let your failures frame your world. Don't let unkind words from others frame your world. Let the word of God frame you this morning. Come and look at yourself in the mirror of God's holy word and as you continue to look into the perfect law of liberty in the mirror of God's word you will become what you're looking at. But if you continue to focus on who you were in Adam, if you continue to focus on your personality traits or quirks or whatever, that's what you'll be. But if you continue to look into the perfect law of liberty and you mix it with faith, through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God. I want to tell you something friends, I want the word, what God says about me to frame my world.

I was looking in the mirror the other day shaving. By the way I do recommend that if you're shaving you do look in the mirror, it does help. And the spirit spoke to me, "Don't get too used to the way you look." I'm not used to hearing God when I'm shaving so it was kind of a surprise. I'm like, "well Lord what do you mean?" And he said, "it doesn't yet appear what you shall be but when He appears, sons of God, it is your destiny to be just like Him. When he appears we shall be like Him in every aspect. And we shall see Him as He is. You need to let the word of God frame your world, friends. And not only your world but the way you look at others. You can see people and they're struggling and struggling with their own personality. They're struggling with the definition that Adam tried to put on us. You and I need to see each other and speak the word over one another. We need to be framing others with the word of God. How do you frame others? "Well did you see how X acted?" Well maybe you might not understand the struggle that X might be going through. And maybe we need to speak the word of God over them. Remember the word of the Lord to Ezekiel, "son of man can these bones live?" Man they're awful dead looking and they're awful dry looking. Prophecy, son of man. Speak to these bones. Start framing them with the word of God. Husbands and wives how do you talk to each other? You know we used to say sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me. But can I get personal today? Words do hurt. Life and death are in

the power of the tongue and what you say to one another you can't call back. They are wounding or they are edifying. God help us to frame one another's lives, frame one another's worlds with the word of God. And even if you see a brother or a sister who's manifesting less than who they really are, then in your mind and in your heart refuse that definition and begin to frame them with the word of God.

I'm going to tell you something folks, God is bringing forth a first fruit company and even when you're out in this world, I don't know, something's happening in my heart. There are people out in this world today that are trapped in all kinds of bondages, every imaginable bondage there is and you know what? If you and I had ears to hear we'd hear the groaning. They're groaning and they're waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God, for a people to come up out of corruption first. A people who have allowed their lives to be framed by the word of God. They don't know it yet but they're waiting for you and they're waiting for me. And there may be somebody just trapped in the most horrible bondage and you look at them and you don't know that the day is coming when the Father's going to give them, He's going to draw them by his Spirit and they're going to read the epistles of Christ and they're going to turn and they're going to come. You don't know who they are yet. And right now they may be trapped in all kinds, be careful how you frame the people. Jesus died for the sins of the whole world and I don't believe in ultimate reconciliation. I believe there are going to be those who are not going to be saved. I mean the Bible is pretty plain about that. But there are going to be many who will come to Christ. Because of your life. Because of what they see and if you listen real close you'll hear the groan.

You know something happens because of the word of God, doesn't it? I was a fairly peaceful heathen until the word of God came into my life and it seemed like everything got turned upside down. Can anybody identify with that? If you look over in Matthew 13, and again, this is a parable about 4 kinds of soil and it's not my purpose to go into that sermon today but I just want to pull something out of it. Vs 20 he said, "But he that receives seed into stony places the same is he that heareth the word and anon with joy receives it. Yet he has no root in himself but endures for awhile." So it's one thing to hear the word and receive it for when tribulation or persecution arises, why, because of the word something happens to a people who are a people of the word. Tribulation is in your future. Tribulation is part of the plan for your life and the sooner that you and I reconcile to that we won't be stumbled by it. Because it says, he stumbled, he's offended. By and by he is offended. Why? Because I didn't think that being a Christian I would have any hard times but folks, there are many of you out there today listening. You're going through spiritual battles. You're going through physical battles. Things are happening and we don't know why. But I want to tell you something. Because of the word that you've been given, because of the word that you've been birthed of there are tribulations in your future and in your destiny to get you to where you need to be and to where I need to be. And God says 'Don't be stumbled by it. Don't be offended when it happens.' I'd like to talk in the balance of what I have to say to you about this because these things are coming and that you and I need to be prepared for them.

Romans 5, and I'm not going to tell you any scriptures that you don't already know because you know these things but I'm just going to remind you of what you already know. Vs 1, I love vs 1, says "Therefore being justified by faith". Listen, there's no other way to be justified. That's how you were justified when you came to Christ, by faith. Faith in what? Faith in the offering, the one offering that is able to perfect you. "By one offering" Hebrews 10 says, "He hath perfected forever them who are sanctified." One offering was all it took. And so you and I are

justified by faith in the beginning when you came to Christ, that's how you were justified. And if you've fallen since then, if you fell yesterday, there's no other way for you to be justified than by that one sacrifice. Get up. If you've fallen, get up. Get back on your feet. Continue to walk. It's not over. You're justified by faith. We have peace with God because we're good boys and girls. Well, na, not so much. If you're living in the spirit you're going to be a good boy and a good girl but don't misunderstand me. But it's not your behavior that justifies you. It's not your behavior that causes you to have peace with God. You have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. No other way. God is not upset with you today. In Isaiah 53 it says that 'He shall see the travail of his soul and be satisfied.' God is satisfied, justice is satisfied because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. And then when you come to Him and you get into a relationship, yes there are good works that God has ordained that you and I should walk in but they're not going to be works that are going to GET you justified. They're going to be works BECAUSE you are justified. "Now by whom we also have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Are you rejoicing in the hope of the glory of God? The glory that is to be revealed in you? Vs 3, "Not only so but we glory in tribulations. Knowing that tribulation is working patience and patience experience." Oh, man! To take it out of the ethereal and bring it into your experience God introduces tribulation into your life and mine. Because he wants to take it out of the realm of doctrine and out of the realm of receiving the word with joy into your actual experience to where you and I are actually experiencing the life of Christ. The word being made flesh inside of us. "And experience, hope" And it seems that we go through phases with this. Have you noticed that? Thankfully God doesn't just drop you in tribulation and leave you there forevermore. But He puts you in for seasons of time and then He pulls you out and gives you times of refreshing. It's like a woman when she's in travail. She starts getting those birthing pains. She's gripped with the pains. Then she's told to push. Press in. Push. And then the pain subsides. What are those called? Contractions. I'm not real familiar with how those feel but I know how tribulation feels. And I want to tell you, when you're hit with the contractions of tribulation you need to push. You need to press in to the spirit and not get offended and stumble because of it. But keep pressing in and every time that that happens the babe, the birthing is a little closer. It's a little closer with each pain and contraction. The appearing, I think John 16 talks about that. You can read that later. He said 'I'm going away but when a woman is in travail, the world's going to rejoice but you're going to have sorrow. You're going to have tribulation. You're going to have pressure. But the woman rejoices for joy that a man is born into the world. You're birthing a man child. You're birthing the life of Christ. You're birthing a new kind of creature. You're taking that out of the invisible and bringing it into the visible. And it happens through tribulation. Tribulation works patience. Patience causes you to have the experience. And every time that you experience the life of Christ moving in you you have hope to go through the next contraction. And then hope makes not ashamed. Because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the operation of the Holy Spirit moving in you. And so don't faint at whatever it is that God has you in. Nothing is happening to you by accident. Wherever it is that you are today you're there by divine appointment. And if you and I can trust God not just in the times of refreshing and the times of blessing. But in the times of great pressure. In the times of great tribulation, will you trust Him?

Revelation 1:9, "I John who also am your brother and companion in tribulation." Wow. Listen to what he has to say. "And in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ. I was in the island that is called Patmos." Why? Because of the word of God. When persecution or tribulation arises because of the word, and you ladies and gentlemen, are a people of the word. This move is a movement of the word of God. How many hours of anointed, inspired messages that were not just doctrinal but they were impartations of the word of God have you and I sat under? But

John said 'I was in Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.' And it's interesting but if you look up that word Patmos it means 'my killing.' John was in the island of my killing for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. The word of God is going to bring you into places where you lose your life so that the life of Christ can be made manifest in you. So that the word once again can be made flesh. So whatever it is you're going through, whatever battle, whatever pressure. Whether it's physical sickness or spiritual pressure, emotional pressure you are a triune being. Spirit, soul and body and tribulation comes to you on all levels. Because God is interested in us not just being a people of mental assent to doctrines of the word but He is interested in a people being the epistles of Christ known and read of all men. So that it's not just what we're doing here preaching, and that's good, but God said it's the foolishness of preaching that he is chosen. But more importantly that people can look at you and they can look at me in the middle of our tribulation and see the sweet caring and loving nature. Look at Jesus being crucified and what he exhibited. That is your calling. And that is mine. And I gotta tell you, that's impossible in my own strength but can I just tell you that where I am today it was impossible for me to get here in my own strength, and I'm not even home yet. I don't know how I got here. I'm just happy to be here. God has carried every one of us and He's not giving up on you. He's not quitting on you. You didn't come this far, I don't care if you show off tomorrow, I'm not giving you a license to do that, but you've already shown that your heart is to follow after Him. Just keep walking. Don't let your bumps in the road define you. Get back in the word. Get back in the mirror of the word and remind yourself who you are and let the word of God frame you.

You know what happened with John, he's on this Isle of Patmos and he said, "I was in the spirit on the Lord's day." He was not talking about Sunday. He's not talking about Saturday for the Seventh Day Adventist or the Jews. He is talking about the great and terrible day of the Lord. That when you and I when we get in the spirit that we are no longer governed by time. That you are able to participate in things that were completed in eternity, before the foundation of the world, as the book of Hebrews says "the works were finished from the foundation of the world so that you and I by faith, even as men of old, Able was able to offer a sacrifice that was more acceptable to God. That God had respect unto Able and to his sacrifice because he offered it by faith. He got in the spirit and he stepped out of time and he realized there was a lamb slain from the foundation of the world and he was able to offer a more acceptable sacrifice than the tiller of the ground, the religious nature of man that wants to till the ground, the cursed ground of Adam, to try to bring God some kind of acceptable offering. There's nothing there that God wants. John said, "I was in the spirit." If you've gotten out of the spirit just get back in and eternity's door is open to you. Enoch could walk with God before it was fashionable or even the time frame for men to do that and not even see death because God took him. Why? Because he got in the spirit and by faith he walked with God, and you know what happened? He was not. Because God took him. You do not have to be held, neither do I, and we have to continue to remind ourselves, you don't have to be held in the bondage of where you are at now in the time frame of things. You can go to your happy place. The happy place for you and I is in the Spirit to where we're no longer governed by things that are happening in time. Don't worry about the crazy election and all the things that are going on in this world. This world is not your home. You're not of this world. Don't worry about who's the president. There's a kingdom coming that shall never end. And that's where you're called. That's where I'm called. Get your head out of the news. Get your head out of time. Get in the spirit and start walking in the courts of eternity and seeing the works that we're finished from the foundation of the world. You'll find yourself if you get in the Spirit. You'll find yourself in the Lord's day and you'll begin hearing the trumpet. And you'll begin seeing and understanding

things because God has you in the island. Wherever you are today I hope this is what you get out of what John was saying here to us. Wherever you are, wherever your Patmos is, you are there because of the word of God and because of the testimony of Jesus Christ. Because that testimony is the spirit of prophecy, God prophesying "I did it in one and I'm going to do the same thing in many. Made in the image of the first one." God so loved the world that He gave his only son. And God so loved his only son that he was going to bring many sons to glory and every one of those many sons was going to be conformed to the image of the beloved son that God so loves. That God so loved Jesus that he's going to fill the face of the earth with ones just like him. It's not my destiny to be like me, praise God for that! That is not where God is going to leave you. Your destiny is to be just like him. What a beautiful plan. What grace, that we've been included in this. Now walk with him.

Can I ask a question before I get on in this? I want you to meet with God today. Are you enjoying your reconciliation? Are you enjoying that relationship with this wonderful father that costs such a great price? That Jesus unselfish as he is, he had it with the father in the beginning. He and the father were together. He could have just enjoyed it by himself forever but he said, "my delights are with the sons of men." He didn't want to have it alone so he became poor so that you and I might be made rich with the treasures of the divine nature. Partakers not of the corruptible nature but of the incorruptible nature, partakers of divine DNA. Do you know who you are? Do you know why you're going through what you're going through? Acts 14:21, "And when they had preached the gospel to that city and taught many they returned again to Lystra and Iconia and to Antioch confirming the souls of the disciples." Ya know we need to do that as I said earlier, framing one another with the word of God. "Speaking to ourselves in psalms and hymns and in spiritual songs. Speaking the truth" because the world is constantly trying to give definition to your life. The definition that is not from above. The definition that is of this world that tells you who you are. It's bombarding you everyday. You need to come aside and come to the table of the Lord and hear his word and let him pass you morsels. Open to him. He's knocking constantly on the door of your heart saying, 'Open to me. If any man will open to me I will come into him. I'll come out of your spirit. I'll come into your soul and I'll sup with you.' You can be enjoying internal fellowship at the table of the Lord no matter where you are in your day. It doesn't have to be your prayer closet saints. You can be doing whatever it is your physical occupation is and enjoying internal fellowship at the table of the Lord as Ruth who sat at the table with Boaz and he handed her parched corn and she dipped her morsel in the vinegar sitting there next to him. Supping. And then passing it out to your brethren, confirming the souls. I hope I'm confirming your soul today in who you are in Christ. That he knows you. Stop looking at yourself like a loser. You're not a loser in Christ. You're a winner. He causes us always to triumph, where, in Christ. How many of you have been walking with the Lord for decades? You're still here. That's almost as big a miracle as the born again experience. The fact that we're all still here is as big a miracle as the virgin birth. We've been kept by the power of God. The fact that I still have a desire in my heart is because I was given to Him before the foundation of the world. "I and the children that the father has given me are for signs and wonders from the Lord of hosts in Israel." That's who you are. And whatever it is you're going through today is because of the word of God and God's confirming you today. And exhorting you to continue in faith. And that we must through much tribulation enter the kingdom. The gates to the kingdom that you're going to enter through are the gates of tribulation. I think about different ones throughout the fellowship, some very dear to my heart. Some with serious physical battles. Man! They are so close to the kingdom. You're there, whatever it is you're going through is because of the word of God. And because of the testimony of Jesus Christ and we are your companions in tribulation this morning. We need to



confirm one another's souls. Lift up the hands that hang down. Strengthen the feeble knees. Come on saints, we're closer than we've ever been. You know it doesn't always continue, there is an end concerning these things.

Revelation 7:13. Bro Dan wrote a wonderful song from this scripture. "And one of the elders answered saying to me, what are these which are arrayed in white robes and from whence came they? And I said to him 'Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me 'These are they which came out of great tribulation.'" And I don't think this is some future event. Some cataclysmic future apocalyptic end of the world situation. I believe in whatever great tribulation that you're in right now, that every time that you come up out of that, this is what's happening. "And have washed their robes and made them white" in the only thing that can make robes white, "the blood of the Lamb." You could preach a whole sermon on the blood of the Lamb. "And they overcame him" How? By the blood of the Lamb. The accuser of the brethren was overcome by the blood of the Lamb. By the word of their testimony and they loved not their lives unto the death" They didn't get stumbled when God put them in Patmos. "These are they which have come out of great tribulation and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." And I believe this next verse can be your experience and my experience today. "Therefore they are before the throne of God and they serve Him day and night" where? "In his temple." Something happening on the inside, tribulation is the gateway into intimacy. It is the gateway into the kingdom. And I'm not talking about a kingdom of meat and drink, I'm talking about a kingdom that is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. I'm talking about the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, the communion of the Holy Ghost. I'm talking about relationship with God. They are before the throne. This is your inheritance, child of God. And it happens on the inside. "And he that sitteth on the throne" The kingdom of God doesn't come with observation. But if the kingdom is within you then the king is within you and the throne is within you. In your spirit is the mercy seat. The throne of God. For the throne shall be established in mercy. "He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more" Something happens as a result of a people going through tribulation. There is no hungering for anything of this world but every hungering that you have is satisfied by God. "They shall hunger no more neither thirst anymore neither shall the sun light on them nor any heat for the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them and lead them unto living fountains of waters" And I believe that this is something that's happening today, "and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Oh yes, child of God, be patient in your tribulation. God hasn't forsaken you. God has not left you. He realizes that you and I need this.

II Corinthians 4. I ministered this word a few months ago in our home assembly and when I was in the middle of ministering an awesome realization came over me. I thought, 'Oh oh. I'm in trouble.' You can't talk about these things and not have to go through it. And I want to tell you something, God is growing a people up. He's going to walk us through and the trail has been blazed. And it is blood stained by the feet of the captain of our salvation that's gone before us. And you and I are called to follow in His footsteps. And it's not all going to be rosy but it's going to bring forth wonderful, wonderful and eternal. The things that we go through are not to be compared with what's going to be revealed in you as a result of that. II Corinthians 4:8 "We are troubled" same word as tribulation, by the way, " We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed. We are perplexed" can anybody get honest enough to say 'Gee, I was perplexed'? "But not in despair. Persecuted but not forsaken. Cast down but not destroyed. Always" not just sometimes "Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus." The island of my killing. "That the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body." In case you didn't get it the first time he says it again. "For we which live are always delivered unto death for

Jesus sake that the life of Jesus may be made manifest in my mortal flesh that the word being made flesh” that the epistle of Christ might be written clearly, known and read of all men. “So then death worketh in us and life in you.” You know there’s a difference between preaching an anointed word, where people are blessed, and an impartation of life. You can be blessed by an anointed word because of a gifting. But life is only imparted when death is working in you. Life can only be working in others if you are staying yielded under the dealing and in the crucible of whatever tribulation it is, friends, that God has you going through. “Death worketh in us, but life in you.” Wow, I want that. And I say that understanding that to get it death has to be working in me. I want to go beyond gifting. I want to be able to impart life. Jesus came back from the dead and he just breathed on them. I’m not talking Benny Hinn here. I’m taking about Jesus Christ breathed on them and said receive the Holy Spirit and every time that you and I go through stuff and we stay yielded, we go through our cross experiences and we stay yielded, you can come in the midst of the people and you don’t even have to say anything, you just breathe and you impart life. You impart the spirit of life to others. There are those I have watched go through grieving experiences, loss of children, different things like that and watched them go through the whole grieving process of the whole thing and come out of it not bitter, not mad at God, trusting Him and other people that are hurting can come around them and they don’t know why, these people aren’t even opening their mouth, but they are drawn to them because something is issuing out of them. And I want to tell you something, you and me, with all of our problems and all the short comings that we see in ourselves, as we stay with God what he is doing is such a miracle. Death is working in us and at the same time people are going to draw to the sons of God. There is going to be a compassion issuing forth because we know that God never gave up on us with our problems. God never withdrew his hand from us. Is he not the one that said, I’ll never leave you. I’ll never forsake you. I’m not going anywhere.

I’ve got to tell you this, I don’t know if I’ve told you folks here this or not, but I was raised by a stepfather for a lot of years and I spent like 2 or 3 years in Father Flannigan’s Boys Town. When I was 12 years old I went to boys town and, I’m not telling you this to get pity please don’t misunderstand and maybe somebody will be touched by this, but I always felt like that whatever I loved I was losing it. I was really the literal red headed stepchild. I got beat with a buggy whip. I got kicked. I mean it was not a fun experience but you know what folks? It made me hungry for a father. A real father. And when God revealed himself to me, a strung out on drugs 19 year old, I found a father who has never mistreated me. Who has done me nothing but good. But I still see that little fear in me that I’m going to lose something. That I’m going to lose Him. And the Lord spoke a personal word to me, I know it says it in the scriptures but it’s one thing to read it and it’s another thing to have the spirit of God speak it to you. He said, “Joseph, I’m not going anywhere son. I started this thing in you.” It started by God and by God it’s going to be finished. “I’ll never leave you. I’ll never forsake you. In your darkest moments I was never looking for performance out of you. If there’s any performance out of you that is not inspired by my spirit it’s not acceptable to me anyway. I will finish what I started in you. I will never leave you. Lo, I am with you always.” Can you hear that today, child of God? Or are you still thinking that you’re serving a perfectionist father that’s looking for you to measure up in your own strength? But just let me tell you, this father is under no illusion concerning you and I. He knows that there’s no measuring up unless it’s done through the ability that He gives. You can’t even want God unless God does that. It says ‘work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God that works in you’ That word ‘works in you’ is the Greek word energyo. It is God that energizes your will to desire him. Saints, if you have a desire for God today it’s because God gave it to you. If you have the desire tomorrow it’s because God kept it alive in you. Isn’t he wonderful? Doesn’t that make you want to walk with him? Don’t you want to know

this father? Don't you want to walk with him? I'm not talking about ruling and reigning and all that stuff that is going to happen, but the privilege of walking with this dad, of seeing his smile toward you. I'll tell you today, and I don't know why I'm talking like this but somebody needs to hear it. Maybe me. God's not mad at you. He's not upset with you. God's not like that. He's not a man. He already knows everything about you and he's purposed to bring you home. And he will bring forth in you the ability to do the works of faith. Not the works of the law. Through faith in Jesus Christ and through relationship you and him together are going to get this thing worked out. Vs 13, "and we having the same spirit of faith according as it is written, I believed and therefore I have spoken. We believed also and therefore speak knowing that he who raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus and shall present us with you. For all things are for your sakes that the abundant grace through the thanksgiving of many may rebound to the glory of God for which cause we faint not." Don't faint! "But though our outward man is perishing," and somebody out there, you know what I talking about "yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more and exceeding and eternal weight of glory." Tribulation is working something for you. It works for you. It is for your benefit. "While we look not at the things which are seen" Don't look at what you're going through. Look at the unseen. "For the things which are seen are temporal. But the things which are not seen are eternal."

One last scripture I want to go to. Romans 8:35. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" This is Paul asking this question. We felt like we were hanging by a thread so many times that we were in jeopardy every moment and just about ready to fall off the cliff and that it was over for us if we...but no. "Who shall separate us." Further up in the chapter "he that spared not his own son." You think he's going to give up on you that easy? "But delivered him up for us all how shall he not with him freely give us all things? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation?" Do you think that what you're going through right now has the ability to separate you from the love of Christ? No! "Nor distress, or persecution, or nakedness, or peril, or sword. As it is written, for thy sake we are killed all the day long. We are counted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay. But in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loves us. For I am persuaded" And here's the question, are you persuaded? I can't go off of Paul's persuasion. Persuasion comes because of a history of relationship. And the apostle Paul in the time frame of where he is right now, all the things he had gone through, you find him saying over in I Corinthians 9, I won't read it all. You can go look at it later. But basically he was worried that after having preached to others he would be a castaway. He went from that to Philipines 3 where he said 'I gotta be honest with you, I haven't yet apprehended that for which I have been apprehended but this one thing I do. Forgetting those things which are behind me I reach for those things which are in front of me. I press for the mark of the prize of the high call of God which is in Christ Jesus." You know what? You and I need some amnesia in some areas. Forget. Bring forth Manesse, whose name means 'to forget.' Forget the things which are behind you and reach forward. And then he went on from there to "I am persuaded. There's nothing that can separate me from the love of Christ." And he goes on from there to II Timothy saying, "I have finished my course. I am ready to be offered up. There's a crown laid up for me. I've made it." He didn't wait to get to the other side to say that. He said that while he was still breathing air on this side. Wow. From feeling like you're going to be a castaway to being persuaded that He which started this. I'm confident of this very thing. That he which began a good work in me shall complete it till the day of Jesus Christ. "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor powers nor things present nor things to come nor height nor depth nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Oh yes, brethren we're

going to go through tribulation but it can't separate you from God's love all it can do is bring forth more and more experience of the life of Christ. All it will do is cause the seals to break off of the book of your life that was written before the foundation of the world.

Amen and I hope that was encouraging.