

Raised From Death to Life

In Revelation 12:11, the Word of God says “They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they **did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.**” After all I’ve been through, I’ve come to realize that I shrank back from the process of dying to self. I’ve discovered the hard way, that there is a life that leads to death and there is a death that leads to life. It is not enough to stand at the foot of the cross for 31 years gazing. I had to reach a point in my walk with the Lord, where I could honestly say “**I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live;** yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20-21). So I thank God for this opportunity to share my testimony, but I want to start off by sharing with you a word the Lord gave me in preparation for today.

BACKGROUND

2 Timothy is an intensely personal letter, the last canonical epistle written before Paul was executed. It was written to encourage Timothy. Ever since Rome had burned in July of A.D. 64 and Nero had blamed the Christians, it had become very dangerous to be a Christian. It was also very dangerous to have contact with leaders of the church such as Paul. Consequently many believers, including some of Paul’s coworkers, had chosen to seek a much lower profile and become less aggressive in their ministries. Timothy faced temptation to do the same.

2 Timothy 2:1-13

You then, my son, **be strong in the grace** that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. 3 **Endure hardship** with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to **please his commanding officer**. 5 Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor’s crown unless he **competes according to the rules**. 6 The hardworking farmer should be the first to **receive a share** of the crops. 7 Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this. 8 **Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead**, descended from David. This is my gospel, 9 for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God’s word is not chained. 10 Therefore **I endure everything for the sake of the elect**, that they too may **obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory**. 11 Here is a trustworthy saying: **If we died with him, we will also live with him; 12 if we endure, we will also reign with him.** If we disown him, he will also disown us; 13 if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

- a) ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it ²⁵Brothers, pray for us. (1 Thessalonians 5:24-25)
- b) Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: (Philippians 1:6)
- c) Guarding the truth requires the dedication of a soldier, the discipline of an athlete, and the diligence of a farmer.
- d) Your sincere faith (2 Timothy 1:5)
- e) Rekindle God’s gift that you possess (2 Timothy 1:6)
- f) A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out (Matthew 12:20)
- g) For God did not give us a Spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control (2 Timothy 1:7)
- h) So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me, a prisoner for his sake, but by God’s power accept your share of suffering for the gospel (2 Timothy 1:8).

TESTIMONY

Reigning with Christ does not mean avoidance of hardship and deliverance from all suffering. Reigning with Christ means, for the joy set before us, we persevere and we endure in hardship while walking in unyielding faith knowing that God loves us and knowing that His amazing grace is sufficient to meet all of our needs!

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(2 Timothy 2:11-13)*

I. MY PROBLEM

A. LACK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Hosea 4:6
My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge
2. Proverbs 29:18
Where there is no **understanding of the Word of the Lord**, the people do whatever they want to [cast off restraints]
3. Job 28:28
And he said to man, **“The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.”**
4. Proverbs 16:25
There is a **way that seems right to a man**, but in the **end it leads to death**.
5. Romans 12:1-3
12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to **offer your bodies as living sacrifices**, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 **Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world**, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.
6. 2 Corinthians 3:16
But whenever anyone **turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away**.

B. DID NOT GO TO JESUS

1. John 5:39-40
³⁹ **You diligently study the Scriptures** because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, ⁴⁰ **yet you refuse to come to me** to have life.
2. Matthew 11:28-29
²⁸ **“Come to me**, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ **Take my yoke upon you and learn from me**, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will **find rest for your souls**
3. John 10:9-10
⁹ **I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved**. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.
4. Matthew 7:13
Enter through the narrow gate. For **wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction**, and many enter through it.

C. BECAME AN ENEMY OF THE CROSS

1. Philippians 3:10-14
¹⁰ **I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection** and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, **becoming like him in his death**, ¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: **Forgetting what is behind** and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.
2. Romans 6:10-11
¹⁰ For **by the death He died, He died to sin** [ending His relation to it] once for all; and the **life that He lives, He is living to God [in unbroken fellowship with Him]**. ¹¹ Even so **consider yourselves also dead to sin** and your relation to it broken, but alive to God [living in unbroken fellowship with Him] **in Christ Jesus**.
3. Philippians 3:17-19
18 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many **live as enemies of the cross** of Christ. 19 Their **destiny is destruction**, their **god is their stomach**, and their glory is in their shame. **Their mind is on earthly things**
4. Colossians 1:21-27
²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were **enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior**.

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5. 1 Thessalonians 1:9
9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you **turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,**

D. IN A BATTLE

1. Luke 22:31-32
³¹“Simon, Simon, **Satan has asked to sift** you as wheat. ³²**But I have prayed** for you, Simon that your **faith may not fail.** And when you have **turned back, strengthen** your brothers.”
 - a) Comfort means "to strengthen." Strengthen," in the Greek, is a word that is used also for the Holy Spirit. "The Comforter," "The Strengtheners," the one who strengthens you. This is God's provision for affliction.
2. Numbers 21:4-9
4 From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became **impatient on the way.** 5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For **there is no food and no water,** and **we loathe this worthless food.”** 6 Then **the Lord sent fiery serpents** among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. 7 And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. **Pray to the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us.”** So Moses prayed for the people. 8 And the Lord said to Moses, “**Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole,** and everyone who is bitten, **when he sees it, shall live.”** 9 So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, **he would look at the bronze serpent and live.**
3. John 3:13-15
14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the **Son of Man must be lifted up,** 15 that **everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.**
4. Psalm 34:5
Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame

II. THINGS TO REMEMBER

A. REMEMBER ME AT THE LORDS TABLE

1. 1 Corinthians 11:23-32
²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he **broke** it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in **remembrance of me.**” ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the **new covenant** in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in **remembrance of me.**” ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you **proclaim the Lord's death** until he comes. ²⁷ Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an **unworthy manner** will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ A man ought to **examine himself** before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without **recognizing the body of the Lord** eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰ That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. 31 But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. 32 When we are **judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined** so that we will not be condemned with the world.
 - a) **Brokenness** is the doorway through which every person must pass who wants to experience the life of Christ being expressed in and through him.
 - b) **Breaking** of bread is a picture of breaking my stubborn will and bringing me to the end of myself.
 - c) New Covenant
Hebrew 8:7-9
⁷ For if **there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another.** ⁸ But God found fault with the people and said: “The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. ⁹ It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, **because they did not remain faithful to my covenant,** and I turned away from them, declares the Lord.

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- (1) Hebrew 8:12
For **I will forgive their wickedness** and **will remember their sins no more.**"
 - (2) Between the Father and the Son.... guaranteed surety ...will never be broken
 - (3) Philippians 4:19
And my God will **meet all your needs** according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus
 - (4) Jeremiah 32:39-41
³⁹ **I will** give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me for their own good and the good of their children after them. ⁴⁰ **I will** make an everlasting covenant with them: **I will** never stop doing good to them, and **I will** inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me. ⁴¹ **I will** rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul.
 - (5) Philippians 2:13
for it is **God who works in you to will and to act** according to his good purpose.
 - (6) Ephesians 3:20
Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to **his power that is at work** within us
- d) Proclaim Lord's Death
- (1) You are preaching, declaring, reenacting the works of the Lord
- e) Eating and Drinking in an Unworthy Manner
- (1) Luke 9:23
Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he **must deny himself and take up his cross daily** and follow me.
 - (2) Matthew 10:38
38 and anyone who does not **take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.**
 - (3) Luke 14:27
And anyone who does not **carry his cross** and follow me **cannot be my disciple.**
 - (4) To a person in the first-century, **the cross meant one thing and one thing only: death by the most painful and humiliating means** human beings could develop. Christians view the cross as a cherished symbol of a redemption, atonement, forgiveness, grace, mercy and love. The cross represents the gospel, the story of redemption, and the place where we decide to reject the gift or to be restored.
- f) Examine Yourself
- (1) 2 Corinthians 13:5
Examine yourselves to see **whether you are in the faith; test yourselves.** Do you not realize that **Christ Jesus is in you**—unless, of course, you fail the test?
- g) Recognizing the Body of the Lord
- 2 Corinthians 4:4-18
- ⁷ But we have this **treasure in jars of clay** to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. ⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰ We always **carry around in our body the death of Jesus**, so that **the life of Jesus may also be revealed** in our body. ¹¹ For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so **that his life may be revealed** in our mortal body. ¹² So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you. ¹³ It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence. ¹⁵ **All this is for your benefit**, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. ¹⁶ Therefore **we do not lose heart.** Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our **light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory** that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is

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unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

B. REMEMBER ME AT THE CROSS

1. Luke 23:31 - 43

³²Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³When they came to the **place called the Skull**, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁵The **people stood watching**, and the **rulers even sneered** at him. They said, “**He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.**” ³⁶The **soldiers also came up and mocked him**. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷and said, “**If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.**” ³⁸There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews. ³⁹One of the criminals who hung there **hurled insults at him**: “Aren’t you the **Christ? Save yourself and us!**” ⁴⁰But the other criminal **rebuked him**. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²Then he said, “**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**” ⁴³Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”

2. Romans 6:1-9

⁵If we have been **united with him like this in his death**, we will certainly also be **united with him in his resurrection**. ⁶For we know that our **old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with**, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷because anyone who has **died has been freed from sin**. ⁸Now **if we died with Christ**, we believe that **we will also live with him**. ⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; **death no longer has mastery over him**.

3. Hebrews 12:1-13

³**Consider him who endured such opposition** from sinful men, so that **you will not grow weary and lose heart**. ⁴In your **struggle against sin**, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵And you have forgotten that **word of encouragement** that addresses you as sons: “My son, **do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you**, ⁶because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.” ⁷**Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons**. For what son is not disciplined by his father? ⁸If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. ⁹Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! ¹⁰Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but **God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness**. ¹¹No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of **righteousness** and **peace** for those who have been **trained** by it. ¹²Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. ¹³“Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may **not be disabled, but rather healed**.

C. REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

1. John 5:24

“I tell you the truth, whoever **hears my word and believes him** who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has **crossed over from death to life**.

2. James 1:22

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says**.

3. Ephesians 2:1-10

¹As for you, **you were dead** in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. ⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive **with Christ** even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up **with Christ** and seated us **with him** in the heavenly realms **in Christ Jesus**, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us **in Christ Jesus**. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

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- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
4. Colossians 1:21-27
²¹ **Once you were alienated from God** and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to **present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation**— ²³ **if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope** held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. ²⁴ Now I **rejoice in what was suffered for you**, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— ²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**.
5. Colossians 3:3
for you **have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God**.
6. Philippians 1:21
For **me to live is Christ [His life in me]**, and to **die is gain [the gain of the glory of eternity]**.
7. Romans 8:18-25
¹⁸ I consider that our **present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us**. ¹⁹ The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be **liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God**. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.
8. We must experience, the "death of Jesus" in order to have the "life of Jesus." **In order to have resurrection you must have death.** The "life of Jesus" always rests upon the "death of Jesus." We must embrace the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

III. REASONS CHRISTIANS GO THROUGH SUFFERING

A. ENTER THE KINGDOM

1. Acts 14:22
Strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We **must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God**," they said.
2. Romans 8:22-27
We know that the whole creation has been **groaning as in the pains of childbirth** right up to the present time
3. Hebrews 2:9-11
⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰ In **bringing many sons to glory**, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the **author of their salvation perfect through suffering**. ¹¹ Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.
4. Hebrews 12:2
² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the **joy set before him endured the cross**, scorning its shame, and **sat down at the right hand of the throne of God**.

B. TEST OF YOUR FAITH

1. 1 Peter 1:3-7
3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us **new birth into a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and **into an inheritance** that

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can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, **5** who **through faith are shielded by God's power** until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** In this you **greatly rejoice**, though now for a little while you may have had to **suffer grief in all kinds of trials**. **7** These have come so that **your faith**—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—**may be proved genuine** and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed

2. James 1:2-3

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the **testing of your faith develops perseverance**. **4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete**, not lacking anything.

3. Romans 5:1-5

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we **rejoice in the hope of the glory of God**. ³ Not only so, but we also **rejoice in our sufferings**, because **we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope**. ⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

C. RELEASE OF GOD'S STRENGTH

1. 2 Corinthians 1:3-10

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the **God of all comfort**, ⁴ who comforts us in **all our troubles**, so that **we can comfort those in any trouble** with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. ⁵ For just as the **sufferings of Christ flow over** into our lives, so also through Christ **our comfort overflows**. ⁶ If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷ And our hope for you is firm, because **we know that just as you share in our sufferings**, so also you **share in our comfort**. ⁸ We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were **under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure**, so that we **despaired even of life**. ⁹ Indeed, in our hearts we felt the **sentence of death**. But this happened that we **might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead**. ¹⁰ He has **delivered us** from such a deadly peril, and **he will deliver us**. On him we have **set our hope that he will continue** to deliver us

a) Affliction, and comfort - the two always go together:

D. RELEASE OF GOD'S POWER SO YOU MAY HAVE GREAT ENDURANCE AND PATIENCE

1. Colossians 1:10-12

¹⁰ And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ **being strengthened with all power** according to his glorious might **so that you may have great endurance and patience**, and joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to **share in the inheritance** of the saints in the kingdom of light.

2. Philippians 4:13

I can do everything **through him who gives me strength**.

3. Hebrews 6:12

We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through **faith and patience inherit** what has been promised.

4. Romans 4:19-21

¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. ²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was **strengthened in his faith** and gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

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E. TRAINING OTHERS

1. Colossians 1:21-27

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³ **if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope** held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. ²⁴ Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— ²⁶ **the mystery that has been kept hidden** for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

F. YOU NOT TO RELY ON YOURSELF

1. Hebrews 5:7-9

⁷ During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

⁸ Although he was a son, **he learned obedience from what he suffered** ⁹ and, once made perfect, he became the **source of eternal salvation for all who obey him**

2. 1 Corinthians 12:26-27

²⁶ **If one part suffers, every part suffers with it;** if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

3. 1 Peter 5:10

¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who **called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while,** will himself restore you and make you **strong, firm and steadfast.**

Reigning with Christ does not mean avoidance of hardship and deliverance from all suffering. Reigning with Christ means, for the joy set before us, we persevere and we endure in hardship while walking in unyielding faith knowing that God loves us and knowing that His amazing grace is sufficient to meet all of our needs!