



Family Devotion #16
For the Week of December 3, 2017

Beloved,

Last week a short study of the life of Abraham was begun. To finish this excursus turn to Genesis chapter fifteen and read the entire chapter! Pay special attention to verse six!

On December third the Sunday morning message was from Romans 5:1-5. There are several key words that the student of the Bible will do well to understand. Please study the definitions below with your family. You may desire to shorten and simplify the definitions for easy recall.

The word *exult* comes from a Greek word that means literally *to boast*. To look further into this word one finds, *to express an unusually high degree of confidence in someone or something being exceptionally noteworthy*. This boasting is totally humble, the believer is expressing that he has no confidence in his own goodness, instead, complete confidence in the free gift of grace.

Exalt, is, to live with joyful confidence.

Hope, in the biblical sense does not have the element of wishful thinking.

Hope, in this context is a noun meaning, *an assured expectation*.

Glory, refers to the state of things as God desires them. Good triumphs over evil, justice prevails, sin has no place, and everything exists in harmony with His holy character.

Exultation, living with joyful confidence. (1)We exult in hope. We live with joyful confidence in the assured expectation that Christ will one day set all things right. It is a joy of knowing that we have been renewed and that we are in the process of becoming more like Jesus. (2)Believers live with joyful confidence in tribulations. This word *tribulation*, can be more generally referred to as *pressure* or *distress*. These pressures come in many shapes and sizes, for example: workplace demands, home and auto repairs, relationships, failing health, job loss, grief, divorce, persecution and other major life events. Believers gain the ability to rejoice under pressure through a carefully monitored training program directed by the Lord Himself. (3)*Perseverance*, through these trials brings about *proven character*. This is similar to a metallurgist placing a piece of gold under intense heat to observe how it responds.

This isn't pretending, or denial, or the power of positive thinking. This triumphant fortitude isn't even something we can choose to develop. It comes as the trials of life in a fallen world become instruments in the hands of the Holy Spirit, who crafts deep within us *proven character*. Proven character brings about hope, the assured expectation, the certainty of a promised outcome. We observe without anxiety, we endure setbacks without panic.

Our guaranteed victory provides a foundation for our proven character which displays perseverance which in turn allows us to endure tribulation with dignity and grace. (The above was gleaned/summarized from a book by Charles Swindoll, *Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary Romans Vol. 6* pp. 112-120.)