

**#83 As a Man Thinks in His Heart no 2**

**1** Sunday morning we began to look at how your mind is full of thoughts which are actually seeds, full of life. And we found that what seeds grow depends on what seeds you water. We closed as we began to look at what the Apostle Peter said, don't be surprised if you are going through trials, because you can be having your trials based on your stand for the Word or trials because of what you have sown in your life.

**2** That is what Peter tells us in 1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

**3** In other words, what Peter is saying is that there is nothing strange with the fact that you are having trials. Here we see that it should not surprise us when we face our trials, because these trials are made for the purpose of testing us.

**4** In fact we see in 1 Peter 1:7 that not only are we ordained to these tests, but we are also ordained to pass them. Wuest Translation "in which last season you are to be constantly rejoicing with a joy that expresses itself in a triumphant exuberance, although for a little while at the present time if perchance there is a need for it, you have been made sorrowful in the midst of many different kinds of testings in order that the approval of your faith, which faith was examined by testing for the purpose of being approved, that your approval being much more precious than the approval of gold which perishes, even though that gold be approved by fire-testing, may be discovered after scrutiny to result in Praise, Honor and Glory at the time of the Revelation of Jesus Christ;

**5** Now, if we are ordained to pass them then you might say, what is the purpose of giving us tests that we are ordained to pass. Well, the purpose of the test is to bring about a result. That is the purpose of any test. To see where you are compared to where you should be.

**6** Therefore, we can say that every trial that you go through and every time you are put to a test by God and you can not see beyond the circumstance which surround your life, just remember one thing: that all those tests are only the result of the seeds of your own thinking and that have spawned forth from the garden of your own mind.

**7** Remember, what Paul told us in the book of Romans 8:28-31 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. 31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

**8** And so if everything about us is already predestined from God, then the very thoughts we think, He knew before the foundations of the World, and He knows not only what you have thought, but what thoughts you will think too. And don't forget, He also knows how to get you to think His thoughts as well. Then we can see the relationship of these thoughts that we have and how they influence our growth into the image of His Son.

**9** Now, our minds are always in a constant flux of change. When we were children we had certain thoughts that filled our minds. Then through life experiences we began to further develop our thoughts. And as we receive each and every new experience, our minds began to examine the circumstances in our lives with a more mature

understanding.

**10** Paul said in 1 Corinthians 13:11 "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, because I understood as a child understands, because I thought as a child thinks, but now that I have become a man, I put away from my mind childish thinking."

**11** And so we see that our mind is in a constant growth pattern, in which our garden or thoughts are constantly being upgraded so to speak, or renewed by what life experiences we go through on our journey of becoming.

**12** Paul tells us in Romans 5:3-5 that we should glory in our tribulations. That means we should glory in our tests.

**13** Now this word here is a Greek word which means those things that seem to bring forth pressure upon us.

**14** Our problem comes when we do not understand how our tests are commensurate with where we are and where God wants us to be. When we think of our trials as coming from an outward source, that is when we begin to lose focus on what God is doing, and we get sidetracked by the specific trial itself.

**15** But we are told by the Apostle Paul that we should glory in these trials and tests, because he went on to say, "knowing that tribulation (the tests) works within you patience; and patience; brings forth experience which is character, and character brings forth an earnest expectation, and having an earnest expectation makes us to be not ashamed, because we know that the Love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which God has given to us by the receiving of His Word.

**16** Therefore we can see how God uses the circumstances in our lives to bring forth His Character and Grace in us. In other words without those tests, those trials or let's just say circumstances, we would not know where we are in our path to adulthood, or adoption.

**17** Therefore we must understand that since our character development is dependent upon receiving outside stimuli so that we will produce in our thinking the very thoughts of God, then we ought to be able to see how dependent we are to have those trials and tests in order to bring us into fulfillment toward the ultimate goal of receiving the very mind of God.

**18** How can I make this more plain to you. Let me see. We know that when we are born again we are born into the family, right?

Ok, so when we are fully mature and about our fathers business, we know we will be ready for the adoption of sons. Therefore, we must know where we are in our progress towards our adoption. Other wise everyone will think because I am in the family, then it matters not if I am mature or not, I will receive my inheritance, and that is a totally false notion and will leave you wanting.

**19** We have been instructed By God's prophet that although you are a son, yet unless you are conformed to the first born son, you will not receive any inheritance. He told us that according to the law of adoption, the son had to be the right kind of son, or he would not receive any inheritance.

**20** And the only way we can know where we are compared to where we should be is by the feedback we get from The Father.

**21** And that feedback comes via the tests we are go through. For the tests we go through are the outward feedback that helps us to understand where we are in our path to adoption.

**22** And that is no different than we do for our own children. We send them to school to learn, or we school them at home to learn, and we use tests in the learning process that help us to assess where the child is at in that subject. Therefore we have tests throughout each quarter, semester, or year depending on our grading cycle.

**23** When a child masters a certain portion of his education material, he is tested to prove whether he has indeed mastered that information or not. When the child masters 1st grade he is asked to come up higher to second grade, and so on until he is completely competent and ready to leave the lower grades.

**24** Then as he progresses to high school and then college and University, he continues to go through the same system of examinations until he attains the knowledge level he set out to attain.

**25** The problem with many though is they do not understand what the examinations are for, and thus they look at them as a hindrance rather than a help. And because they have not understood the importance of the examination, they do not understand how to get through the system they are in. That is why many hate school. They do not look at it as a means of bettering their future, they simply see the exams as an inconvenience. The test requires knowledge to pass it, and that might take some work to acquire. And since they do not wish to apply themselves very seriously, because that takes a lot of effort, they then look perceive the exam as an outside influence they would rather do without. To them the exam is a hindrance. The exam to them is an unpleasant circumstance.

**26** That is why our schools today have failed. They have nurture social skills rather than skills that will prepare a generation for a life of work. Thus the man who bypasses his education might go to work early and see some kind of immediate reward in terms of a few dollars, but later in life his life he often regrets not having applied himself to learning more skills that would have paid him a much higher reward.

**27** Therefore, our reactions that we show toward our own circumstances is a good indication as to where we stand in our development toward the end-product of our being. How we handle each circumstance will depend on what stage we are in, in our progression towards our ultimate character.

**28**

Then what appears to be a test at one stage in our progression, will not appear to be so at a further stage in our character development.

**29** Circumstances are just like taking a test in school. What would appear to be a very difficult thing for us in the first year of schooling, would not even appear to be a test after twelve years of schooling. The further we are in our progressive state towards conforming to the image of the first born son, the further developed will be our response mechanisms in our mind set which is the garden of our thinking.

**30** Therefore every circumstance that we face in life is a result of where we are at that time in our growth or state within our own mind or thoughts.

**31** In other words, what I am trying to say is that all our Circumstances grow out of all our thoughts. They are there because we are there in our current mind set.

**32** A person who learns how to handle his finances does not have financial trials. My father always told us, do not buy on credit, if you don't have cash then do without it. But this younger generation has not been instructed in this way and many suffer today because they lack this understanding, and they wonder why they struggle from day to day in this area.

**33** Einstein defined insanity as doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. And this nation and its leaders show they are insane because they keep doing the same thing and expect a different result and can't understand why it's not happening that way. And so the nation as a whole is in debt beyond their ability to pay back.

**34** From his sermon, Christ revealed in His own Word 65-0822M P:8 Brother Branham said, "Now, I see laying here, there's been many requests this last week on what I said last Sunday on the message... I forget what I titled it now. But that I said something about paying your debts. And you know, no matter what you say, it's misunderstood by many, not 'cause they don't want to misunderstand it, but you just simply misunderstand it. And now, someone said, "Should we buy a car?" Now, that isn't what Jesus spoke of, or the Bible there, that said, "Owe no man nothing." That's lingering debts that you could pay. Pay them. You don't. That's owing no man nothing. It doesn't mean... My, we owe our rent, our telephone bill, and what more. We owe those things, and we pay them. But an old lingering debt that you could be paying on, pay it off. See? Now, don't go with anything hanging on you like that."

**35** And did you know back 40 and 50 years ago a house mortgage was never more than a 7 year note? and most people when they bought their first house waited until they paid it off before they started filling it with furniture.

**36** My wife and I began with Good will furniture and second handed stuff that we could buy from the railroad salvage and army vets, etc. In fact our first washer and dryer we paid \$50 dollars for and they were 15 years old when we got them and they lasted another 15 years before we replaced them.

**37** But young people today want instant gratification, and are not willing to wait. and so they go deep in debt and don't realize that debt is servitude. They used to have the debtors prisons filled with people who couldn't pay their debts.

**38** Did you know that every mortgage will be one day owned by the Catholic church. Sure. She has the gold and the Jews on Wall Street have the paper, and the way they are printing the paper with the Jewish controlled central banks, the paper has to become worthless, and then when the Catholic church backs up the paper with its gold, your paper will be sold for their gold, and then you will serve the Catholic church whether you want to or not.

**39** Proverbs 22:7 The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

**40** Now, why haven't the children been taught this? Do you know what the verse right before this one says? verse 6 say "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." and then verse 7 says, rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

**41** And you are supposed to teach that to your children, but have we?

**42** There isn't such a thing as get rich quick schemes that work. O they might work for the guy who comes up with the scheme, but the people who fall for them are the ones who make him rich, and they themselves never do get rich.

**43** Therefore, we are only buffeted by circumstances so long as we perceive them to be an outside influence upon our lives. What I mean by this is when we think that your circumstances you are under are the fault of someone else, it is then that we become buffeted and troubled by them. But when we realize all our circumstances are working together for our good, then nothing can separate us from the Love of God, and nothing can hinder us from becoming conformed to the image of the first born son.

**44** That is why Paul went on to say, Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 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.

**45** When we come to the place where we realize that circumstances that come forth in our lives are a direct result of the state of our own heart of mind, we will begin to appreciate their use and purpose in our growth toward the finished product that God has destined for each one of us.

**46** Anyone who has for any length of time, been a practicing Christian, and who has practiced self control and self purification or sanctification, will have noticed that the alteration in their circumstances have been in a direct ratio to the alteration in their mental state.

**47** When a man purposely and earnestly makes an effort to remedy his own personal character defects, and makes a swift and marked progress toward bettering himself in those areas where he has a weakness, he will then pass swiftly through a succession of unpredictable changes.

**48** Therefore, the soul attracts that which it secretly desires, and also that which it fears the most.

**49** Did not Job himself say, "That which I fear the most has come upon me? "

**50** It not only reaches the heights of it's desired aspirations, but it also falls to the level of it's un-corrected desires, and your circumstances are the means by which your soul receives what it longs for.

**51** Therefore, every thought seed that is sown in your mind, or that we allow to fall into the fertile soil of our minds, to take root there, will produce it's own fruit, effects, or circumstances, "after it's own likeness or nature."

**52** Sooner or later each thought seed we have sown in our hearts will have to take blossom and become manifested in our lives as an action, word or deed. And each action or deed will bear it's own fruit in terms of opportunity or circumstances. As the Scripture tells us, good thoughts will bear good fruit and bad thoughts will bear bad fruit.

**53** That is why we must come to the place where we begin to monitor and control what we think and believe. Because every seed you sow into your mind and every seed in your mind that you water, you will have to deal with the circumstances in your life when that seed takes on manifestation. And who is to blame? You alone are to blame for your trials. No one else, but you and you alone.

**54** Therefore you can not blame others for what circumstances you go through in your own life. Because where you are in your mind and where God wants your mind to be are two different things. And until you come to the place where like Jesus said, "My meat is to do the will of my Father," Then you are not yet where God wants for you to be. So guess what. He sends trials to you which are circumstances, and these trials are all just a reflection of where you are at in your present state.

**55** You have financial trials? It is because you have not sown with financial wisdom.

**56** Now, either next Sunday the following Saturday which will be our communion service, I am going to get into the status and state as brother Vayle described it to us years ago so you can understand where you are now in your path to being conformed to the image of the first born son. Because your stature is what you are, a son of God ordained to adoption and being conformed to the image of the first born son. But where you are right now along that path, is your present state or standing. And if we know what we are supposed to be, and are not blind to where we are now standing, then we can move forward. But if you are blind to your current standing or state, then how can God deal with you. So he gives you trial after trial until you come to a realization of where you are now versus where he wants you to be.

**57** That is why Peter said, don't be surprised if you are going through trials. Because either you caused them, or your current state caused for them to come in order to get you to move forward.

**58** And allow me to be real blunt. You don't whip the jack ass that is already moving for you. You whip the jack ass when he gets stubborn, that's when you get the whip out. Right? So let's turn to 1 Peter 4 to see what God has to say about this.

**59** 1 Peter 4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; 2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

**60** In other words, God will let you suffer for your mistakes, but hopefully once you made your mistake, you won't keep on doing it. and if you do keep making the same mistakes, then you are insane.

**61** Now, let's skip ahead to 1 Peter 4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, (that's his doxa, his opinions, values, and judgments) ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

**62** In other words, make up your mind how you want to go through life suffering. Because you are going to suffer in this life, but whether you suffer because of your stand for the Gospel or whether you suffer because of your own stupidity, time only will tell. But your reward for suffering for Christ's sake, will be great while your reward for enduring the suffering you will go through because of your own mistake will be minimal. But you will receive a reward, and that is that your character will make changes to itself so that you will not have to suffer too often for making the same mistake.

**63** 16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. 17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? 18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? 19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

**64** Notice we find Peter telling us that if we suffer for Christ sake it is acceptable with God, but if we suffer for what we have caused, then we should take the consequences patiently, knowing that all things are working together for our own good. As you can see, your thoughts are seeds that must by their nature of being a seed, bring forth into manifestation the fruit commensurate with the nature in the seed.

- 65** Since the life in the seed will make itself known by coming into the light, then when the seed thought does give way to a life experience in the form of an action or a deed, it will then cause other things to happen in response.
- 66** Therefore as Peter said, don't be so shocked and surprised if your own actions have caused other circumstances to happen which you may feel you can not control. You really can control them by not causing them to happen in the first place.
- 67** We all are aware of the principle in the law of physics that says, "For every action there is a reaction".
- 68** Therefore, it behooves us to be careful how we do things. If we really believe that everything we sow will result in reaping, then when we sow hateful speech, or criticisms, we should not be surprised when the criticism comes back our way.
- 69** Therefore we should now be able to see how "the outer world of circumstances actually shapes themselves to our inner world of thought". And both pleasant and unpleasant external conditions are factors which make for our ultimate good, or work together for our good.
- 70** That is why we learn by both suffering and receiving blessings. Each of these outward stimuli helps to further our growth toward that image of Christ that we so long to be in our souls. Therefore we should be able to see that our actions are only an expression of our thoughts. Circumstances do not just happen, they grow out of the conditions of our heart.
- 71** Just as our spiritual lives are progressive where word must be piled upon Word to bring forth that Glorified body, so too do our circumstances add to our suffering in order to help our character to grow and develop. Every situation we face in life is like the piece of a large puzzle that once fitted together gives purpose and meaning to each of them.
- 72** The circumstances and conditions we face each day are only reflectors which help us to know how far along in our development we have come.
- 73** Therefore, you may not always receive what you pray for, but know one thing for sure, "you will always receive what you have sown for".
- 74** Therefore our desires and prayers are only gratifying to us when they are in harmony with what we are actually sowing in the recesses of our mind. When we fight circumstances, we are only revolting against the effect of what we have been sowing.
- 75** We see the circumstances that are without and we may not like what we see, yet they are there only because we keep nourishing them in our minds, and we keep feeding and thus preserving them in the gardens of our mind.
- 76** We so often wish to improve upon our circumstances, but yet we are so unwilling to improve ourselves. And that is why our circumstances remain the same. If we shrink from crucifixion of self, we shall never achieve our hearts desire.
- 77** Church Age Book Chapter 4 - The Smyrnaean Church Age P:14 Now the Lord God Almighty says, "I KNOW." There He is walking in the midst of His people. There He is, the Chief Shepherd of the flock. But does He hold back the persecution? Does He stem the tribulation? No, He does not. He simply says, "I KNOW your tribulation--I am not at all unmindful of your suffering." What a stumbling block this is to so many people. Like

Israel they wonder if God really loves them. How can God be just and loving if He stands by and watches His people suffer? That is what they asked in Malachi 1:1-3, "The burden of the Word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi. I have loved you, saith the Lord. Yet we say, Wherein hast Thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the Lord: yet I loved Jacob, And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness." You see, they could not figure out God's love. They thought that love meant no suffering. They thought that love meant a baby with parental care. But God said that His love was "elective" love. The proof of His love is ELECTION--that no matter what happened, His love was proven truly by the fact they were chosen unto salvation (because God hath chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth). He may commit you to death as He did Paul. He may commit you to suffering as He did Job. That is His prerogative. He is sovereign. But it is all with a purpose. If He did not have a purpose, then He would be the author of frustration and not of peace. His purpose is that after we have suffered awhile we would be made perfect, be established, strengthened and settled. As Job said, "He puts strength in us." (Job 23:6b) You see He, Himself, suffered. He learned obedience by the things that He suffered. He was actually made perfect by the things that He suffered. Hebrews 5:8-9, "Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered; And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him." In plain language, the very character of Jesus was perfected by suffering. And according to Paul He has left His church a measure of suffering that they, too, by their faith in God while suffering for Him, would come to a place of perfection. Why did He want this? James 1:2-4, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

**78** A man who wishes to have a better life style, must be willing to work for what he wants.

**79** Too many people live at poverty level and wish daily that they could rise above it, and yet they are personally unwilling to do something about their condition other than gripe and complain about it. You are the reason you are what you are. What you have sown is what you are reaping in your life.

**80** You don't get a close knit family by the luck of some draw. You get a close knit family by hard work and constant communication. Good thoughts and actions can never produce bad results. Jesus told us that a Good tree can not produce bad fruit. Therefore if we think good thoughts, we will have good actions which will produce good results.

**81** Matthew 7:17-19 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. 19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

**82** You reap only what you sow. Therefore if you delight in the Lord, you will receive the things that you have need of.

**83** Psalms 37:4-6 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. 5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. 6 And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

**84** Proverbs 16:4 The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

**85** You make the commitment; you are the one who must sow, and then God simply honors the Law of Reproduction that says, every seed will bring forth after it's own kind. I have seen too many people complain

about their lack of victory, yet they do not sow victory, but they sow defeat.

**86** From his sermon, Hour Is Come 51-0415E E-17 brother Branham said, "Your right mental attitude towards God's Divine promise will bring any promise to pass. Now, maybe you don't believe that. You say, "Well, my faith is weak." I wouldn't confess it. See? Don't let the devil know that. Always say, "I have good faith. I believe God with all my heart." See? Don't testify nothing of the devil. And when you accept Him as your Healer, don't never act like you're sick or crippled any more. Believe that you're healed. Take Him at His Word. Then it's all over on God then and not on you. See? As long as you take God at His Word, then the Word will produce what It promised to do.

**87** Therefore, Beautiful thoughts of all kinds will materialize into habits of Grace and kindness, which will solidify into friendly and cheerful circumstances:

**88** Pure thoughts will materialize into habits of holiness and self control, which will further solidify into circumstances of rest and peace.

**89** If you sow thoughts of self reliance, courage and decisiveness, they will bring forth and materialize circumstances of success, plenty and freedom;

**90** If you sow Energetic thoughts they will materialize into habits of cleanliness and industry, which will solidify into circumstances of courteousness:

**91** If you sow Gentle and forgiving thoughts they will materialize into protective and preservative circumstances.

**92** If your sowing is from Loving and unselfish thoughts and motives, then they will materialize into habits of self-forgetfulness for others which will solidify into circumstances of sure and abiding prosperity and true riches.

**93** You know the Bible says, "To have friends you must show yourself friendly" If you keep sowing the same particular train of thoughts, be it good or bad, it cannot help but to produce its results on the character and circumstances in which you live.

**94** Isaiah 58:11 "And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. "

**95** The second half of Jeremiah 31:12b tells us "Their Soul shall be as a watered Garden"

**96** Therefore, everything you are, even your Character comes forth from the garden of thought that is in your heart, making you what you really are. And the garden of your thoughts affects every thing that is already in you, not only affecting your character, but molding your character, even materializing the circumstances of your daily life. And the way you handle those circumstances will reflect whether you are aware of your standing in your growing up into Him in all thing.

**97** And God uses all the circumstances in your life in shaping your character into it's final product that He predestined for you.

**98** Therefore, every trial you endure, every test God puts you through, comes about as a result of the Seed Thoughts that lay within your heart. Therefore, every thought seed that is sown, or that we allow to fall into the

fertile soil of our minds, to take root there, will produce it's own, after it's own likeness or nature.

**99** Sooner or later each thought seed we have sown in our hearts will have to take blossom and become manifested in our lives as an action or deed. And each action or deed will bear it's own fruit in terms of opportunity or circumstances. As the Scripture tells us, good thoughts will bear good fruit and bad thoughts will bear bad fruit.

**100** Therefore Loving thoughts create an atmosphere of help, and trust, which crystallize into habits of Grace, kindness, and charity, which creates further circumstances of friendliness and cheerful benevolence, and reciprocity on the behalf of those who are the recipients of your loving thoughts.

**101** 2 Thessalonians 1:2-3 Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

**102** Ephesians 1:15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

**103** Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

**104** 2 Peter 3:1-7 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: 6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

**105** Let us pray...