

Easter Sunday 2014

## *Mostly Personal...*

Loved Ones,

Our 28 days of agreement concerning *Faith Building Promises* continues! But first, let me remind you of something from last week's message (entitled *We had Hoped...*) that was not in your outline. The point was – *What is God developing in us as we move through the extended trials?*

We see God doing three things in us:

1. ***He is teaching us to nurture the spiritual man, not the carnal man.*** Romans 8 makes it clear that we can live according to the flesh, or by the Spirit of God which indwells every child of God. The choice is totally ours. Remember, *What you feed grows; what you starve dies.*
2. ***He is teaching us to evaluate life from the perspective of Heaven, not earth.*** We must decide, *Whose report will you believe? We shall believe the report of The LORD!* A young G.I. ran onto the beach at Normandy on June 6, 1944. Immediately pinned down by Nazi machine gunners, he had only a view from his belly as he crawled along seeking cover. From his earthbound perspective he despaired – *We're going to lose this thing!* Far above, another American was flying well above the beach, radioing intelligence reports back to the British coast. He saw the same things as his ally on the ground, but from his *Heavenly* perspective he saw more, and his evaluation of the struggle was totally different – his report: *We're going to win this thing! AND WE DID!*
3. ***He is teaching us about the true value of faith.*** Faith is not a *positive attitude* designed to force God to give us whatever we want or to make our problems disappear. True faith is an abiding trust that settles our heart, assuring us that whatever we face in life, "God is good; and everything He does is good!" Psalm 119:68 NIV

***As we look at our verses of encouragement this week, focus on God's great love for His people!***

### **Sunday**

Jude 21 NASB "And keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life."

### **Monday**

Romans 5:5 NLT "And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love."

### **Tuesday**

Lamentations 3:22, 23 NIV "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

### **Wednesday**

2 Thessalonians 3:3, 5 ESV "But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ."

### **Thursday**

1 John 3:1-3 NIV "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure."

### **Friday**

1 John 3:16 NLT "We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters."

### **Saturday**

John 15:9-12 NLT "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you.

I love you, *Pastor Stephen*