**Sunday, May 9**

**Going deeper in 1 Peter 1:3-12**

**INTRODUCTION**

Peter begins to explain how you are to live by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ particularly when you experience trials.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

3 Praise be to God who is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in His overflowing mercy gave us brand-new life and a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 4 This includes a future in heaven that can never perish, spoil, or fade – reserved for you. 5 You are protected by the power of God through faith for the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 I know this gives you great joy, though I also know for a little while you have wrestled with various trials. 7 These have come to build and prove your faith which is more precious than pure gold. Gold is purified by fire. It is the same way with your faith. Through suffering your faith is proved to be genuine. All this will result in praise, glory and honor as the victory of Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 You have never seen Him, yet you love Him and even though you do not see Him now as you go through these trials, you keep believing and are being filled with glorious inexpressible joy. 9 You are receiving the goal of your faith – total salvation. 10 The prophets searched with great care and intently inquired about this salvation and prophesied about the gift of life that God was preparing. 11 As they were searching for the time and circumstances of this gift of life the Spirit of the Lord Jesus showed them that the Messiah would experience suffering followed by glory. 12 Even though they wanted to know who and when, they were only shown that they were serving you, you who by orders from heaven have now heard for yourselves – through the Holy Spirit – that the good news of those prophecies have been fulfilled. Do you realize how favored you are? Angels would have given anything to be in on this! 13 So get ready for action! Get your head in the game and be self-controlled. Set your hope completely on the grace that has been given to you and will be fully revealed when Jesus Christ arrives.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What are all the things that God has given to us in and through Jesus Christ according to these verses?

2. What can be one of God’s purposes in trials and suffering? What has been a time that you felt you were being refined by fire in your journey of faith? How did it shape your faith? If you are in a small group share these with each other.

3. Why do you think that our faith is so important to God that He would use hard things to refine it?

4. What has happened in Jesus Christ that the angels wanted in on? How does it make you feel that you are part of something that even the angels wanted to know about?

5. According to verse 13 what should be our response to grace of Jesus Christ?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the Lord that He has made you part of His movement in human history.

\*Ask Him to show you how He is working to refine your faith.

\*Ask Him to prepare your mind and give you self-control so you can live for His purposes today.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

When you put your faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior you became part of His movement to save all of creation. Will you trust in the power of the Holy Spirit and be a representative for the movement of Jesus this week? When you experience trials will you look for how God is refining your faith?