



August 2, 2020

# CHURCH OF THE LIVING WORD

Pastors LT & Weeda Moss

## Planting the Heavens in Earth!

Isaiah 51:16

### REFINED BY FIRE

1 Peter 1:6-7

*In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

God is always at work in our lives. Even during seasons of adversity, He wants to accomplish something powerful and good. How should this knowledge affect our response? Today's passage teaches us to choose to rejoice during difficult times. This doesn't mean we have to be happy about the hardship itself. Instead, joy comes from drawing close to the Lord and believing steadfastly that through His redemptive power, He is growing and preparing us. If your usual response to trials is anxiety, anger, or depression, the idea of having joy in the midst of a negative situation might not seem logical. However, if you look beneath the surface, you will discover that this biblical directive makes sense for several reasons.

Often, our natural reaction to pain is to run in the opposite direction, and as fast as possible. However, God wants to teach us endurance--much like a long-distance runner builds up strength in training--so that we can fully benefit from what He is doing in our hearts. He uses trials as a refining fire to purify us like gold and bring us to greater spiritual maturity. As we realize that we are actually being made more complete through our adversities, we'll begin to face challenging times with confidence that He always has our best interest in mind.

While a worldly viewpoint sees hope and joy in the midst of dark times as naïve, a spiritual perspective discerns that we're really progressing on a journey toward life at its fullest. We can be filled with supernatural joy, knowing that the Lord is making us into world-changing spiritual warriors.

### SCRIPTURE VERSE

*Psalm 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."*

### BIBLE TRIVIA

1. Which is the longest river in Israel?
2. What does the word "gospel" mean?
3. Who said prepare the way of the Lord?
4. When did the disciples fill 12 baskets with leftover bread and fish?
5. What animals was Rachel looking after when Jacob first met her?

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- Vince Gunnoe 8/3
- Theresa Zuniga 8/3
- Shiela Vemu 8/7
- Sonia Powell 8/8



### ANNIVERSARY WISHES

- 8/9 Pete & Maribel Magallanes 17 yrs

### ASSISTANT MINISTERS

Desi & Amanda Martinez



### CONTACT US

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### SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sun 10:00 am.....Celebration Service  
Wed 7:00 pm.....Family Night Service

