

**MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH, 3500 Edwards Mill Road, Raleigh, NC 27612**

**NEWS & EVENTS – July 2025**

Phone...(919) 787-1910  
E-mail: [office@mobic.org](mailto:office@mobic.org)  
Web Page: [www.mobic.org](http://www.mobic.org)

SAM GORE, Senior Pastor  
NANCY MCBRAYER, Office Manager  
MIKE KING, Maintenance Supervisor

---

*Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4*

Sometimes when you seek an answer from the Lord, it takes a while to process when it comes. The memory is still vivid while some recollections fade more frequently than they used to. The preceding Bible verses answered a question I fearfully brought before the Lord some thirty years ago. When I heard the dreadful news of our son's death that dark morning, I prayerfully, and fearfully, posed the question. *Lord God, what is happening here? What is the meaning of this? Please speak so I can understand.* His answer came about two hours later from the Word of God. A personal word from a personal God. It's the way He relates. I would like to say that it gave me some closure for such an out-of-order event. But closure was the last thing on my mind. It was more like a puzzle to be solved. I thought if I could figure out the Lord's purpose, I could find my path through this time of terrible sorrow. Still, I wander, reflecting upon life in the midst of death.

I have learned that human beings are meaning-makers. We try to find the reasons that things happen to us. Especially the hard times. For a long time, I took these verses apart, piece by piece, phrase by phrase, word by word. I *considered it*...the inexplicable event, so sad yet so significant. To consider is to think deeply...to contemplate...to seek the meaning. To equate the event with joy was just too bizarre for me to understand. Then one day I understood that the Holy Spirit was there with me on this journey and the joy of the Lord has surely been our strength. His joy in the midst of our sorrow seems like the supreme paradox but it is quite normative in the supernatural life.

*When you encounter, not if you encounter various trials, is an eye-opening truth. Those who are Christ-followers can truly come to realize that trouble and trials in this realm are our portion. We should expect these burdens. But along with the burden comes the blessing...the joy of the Presence of the Living God. It is here that we discover we can consider it joy when we encounter various trials. Many different kinds of trials. Through the years of considering this passage of scripture, I didn't know if I would or could endure this trial. I didn't know as one of the survivors of our son's death I would survive the process myself. Then one day the Lord revealed His secret, and I saw how God's Word gave me meaning. I was not the one being tested. The it that was being considered was indeed a test being administered, but it was a testing of my faith. The testing of my faith was producing something called endurance. Would my faith endure this? Could my faith endure this? You see, the strength of our faith is not something we practice harder and get better at. The testing of our faith that produces the strength to endure is found in the object of our faith. The object of our faith, the Source of our faith is the Living God. The Living God is totally trustworthy. Even when we struggle to put the pieces of the puzzle together. It is possible to believe God when we do not understand...it is here the test is administered...it is here that faith is tested. When we trust the Lord, the faith that we receive from Him is strengthened in every trial we encounter.*

I close with the testimony that the sorrow of losing our son to death is overwhelmed with the joy of the Presence of the Lord. His strength operating in our weakness gives Life meaning. Only God can do that kind of thing because He does that kind of thing. Please consider another passage of Scripture which impresses me immensely,

*Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, 21 equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

**Hebrews 13:20-21**

In Honor of our Lord Jesus Christ and In Memory of our son, Samuel Elijah Gore (06.05.79-07.22.95)

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam

(If you are unable to attend Mt. Olivet's 11 AM Sunday worship service in person, can go to website [www.mobic.org](http://www.mobic.org) and click on "Worship Services" for live streaming or prior messages.)