

The background of the image is a close-up, high-contrast photograph of flames. The colors range from deep reds and oranges to bright yellows and whites at the tips of the fire. The flames are dynamic and swirling, creating a sense of intense heat and movement.

**Precious**

**1 Peter 1:3-9**



# 1 Peter 1:

3 ¶ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.



# 1 Peter 1:

6 ¶ In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, 7 so that the proof of your faith, *being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but



# 1 Peter 1:

believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy  
inexpressible and full of glory, 9 obtaining as the  
outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

BIBLE

We wants it.

We needs it.

Must have  
the precious!



Smeagol, The Lord of the Rings Trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien

# Starts with God... (3)

- ▶ Peter writing - scattered, persecuted
  - ▶ Nero persecutions 64
- ▶ Blessed God – Father = mercy!
- ▶ “a living hope” by the resurrection of Christ!
  - ▶ Greatest assurance... baptism!
- ▶ Living to inherit!

# Inheritance (4,5)

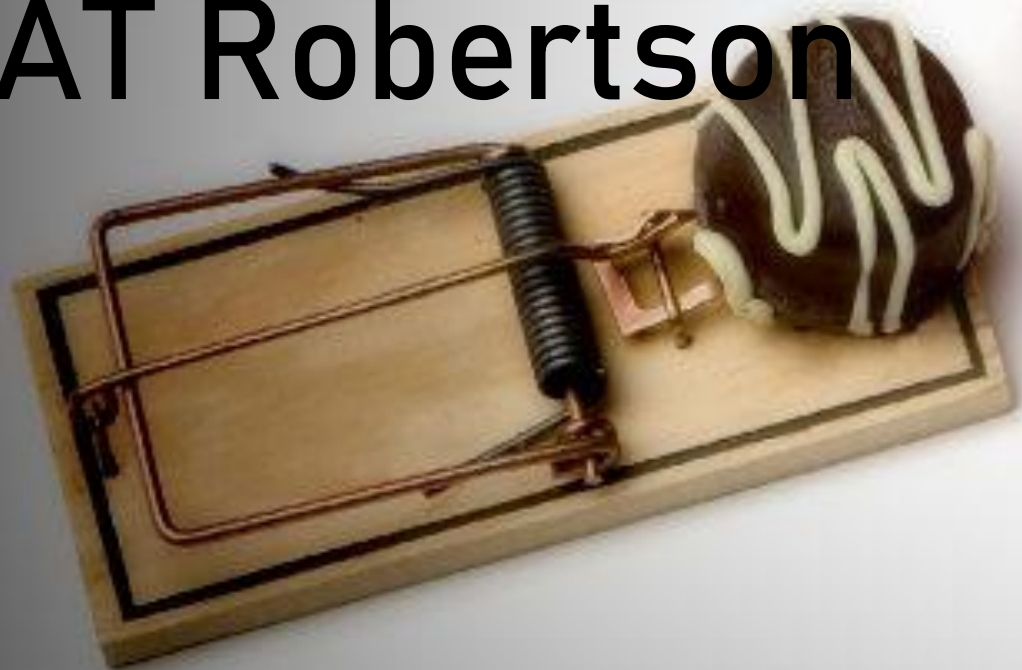
- ▶ Imperishable –
- ▶ Undeiled –
- ▶ Will not fade away –
- ▶ Protected – guarded
- ▶ Through faith – agency and process
- ▶ Salvation revealed at the end

# Great rejoicing! (6)

- ▶ In what?
- ▶ “you greatly rejoice”
- ▶ “now for a little while” LIMITS!
- ▶ “you have been distressed” By trials..  
experiment, trial, proving



**‘Trials rightly faced  
are harmless, but  
wrongly met become  
temptations to evil.’  
AT Robertson**



# Rejoice? Distressed? Trials

- ▶ “proof of your faith” tested, valuated
  - ▶ End result is in focus... lifestyle in Christ!
- ▶ ‘more precious than gold’
- ▶ The finished product – pure and tested
- ▶ THIS is precious to GOD
- ▶ Relationship of trust...

# Tested by FIRE

- ▶ Result.. A perfect ingot ???
- ▶ “to result in praise and glory and honor”
  - ▶ HE gets the GLORY from this ‘faith’
  - ▶ No vision but LOVE
  - ▶ No ‘seeing’ but BELIEF
  - ▶ You GREATLY REJOICE! and receive...

# YOU GREATLY REJOICE!

- ▶ No! NOT IN HEAVEN....
- ▶ **NOW**, in the midst of it all...
- ▶ IN SPITE of it all!
- ▶ In the storm
- ▶ Trust in God above all – **FAITH!!**

"Our cause is never more  
in danger than when a human,  
no longer desiring, but still intending,  
to do our Enemy's will,  
looks round upon a universe from which  
every trace of Him seems to have vanished,  
and asks why he has been forsaken,  
and still obeys."

*C. S. Lewis - The Screwtape Letters*