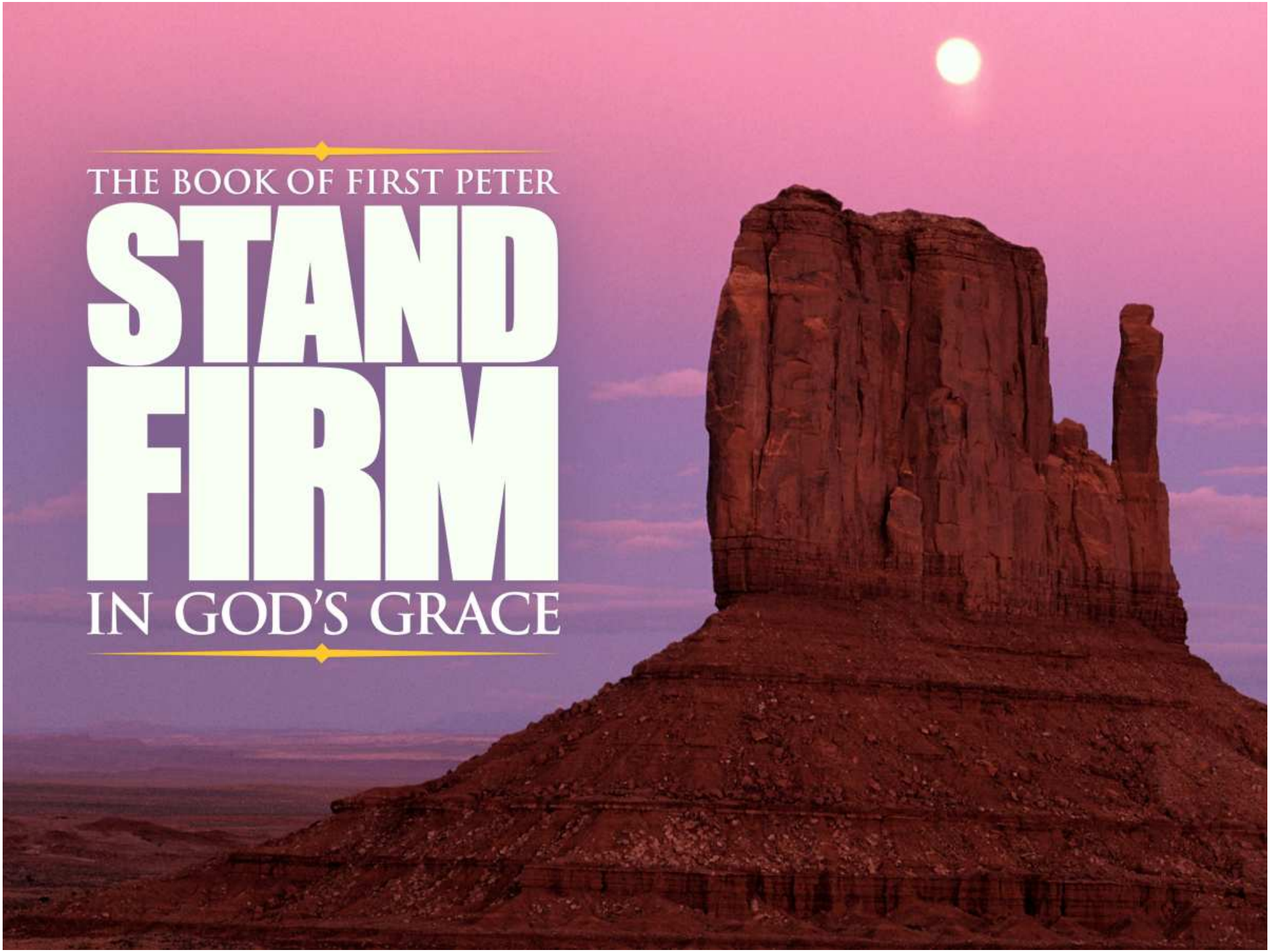
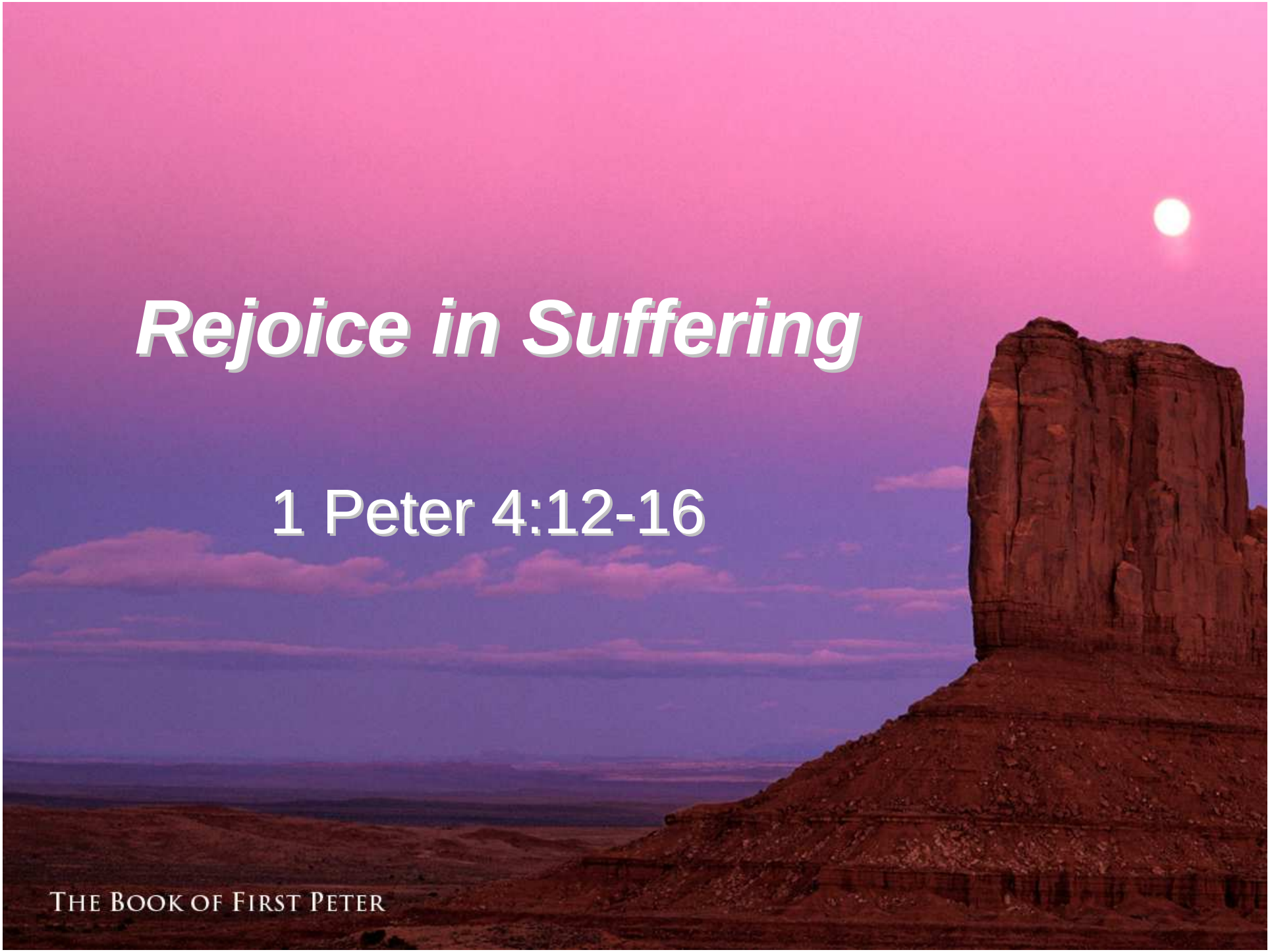

THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER
STAND FIRM
IN GOD'S GRACE


Rejoice in Suffering
1 Peter 4:12-16
THE BOOK OF FIRST PETER


BOYSEN

Saeed Abedini imprisoned in Iran





1 Peter 4: 12-16

I. Don’t be surprised at suffering vs 12
II. Rejoice in suffering vs 13,14
III. Suffer for the right reasons vs 15,16

Vs 12 “Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you…”





I. Don’t be surprised at suffering vs 12

Why do bad things happen to those who believe in a good God?

“God allows tribulation and anguish to come right to the threshold of our lives in order to prove to us that His life in us is more than a match for all that is against us.” Oswald Chambers

“…the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing,”





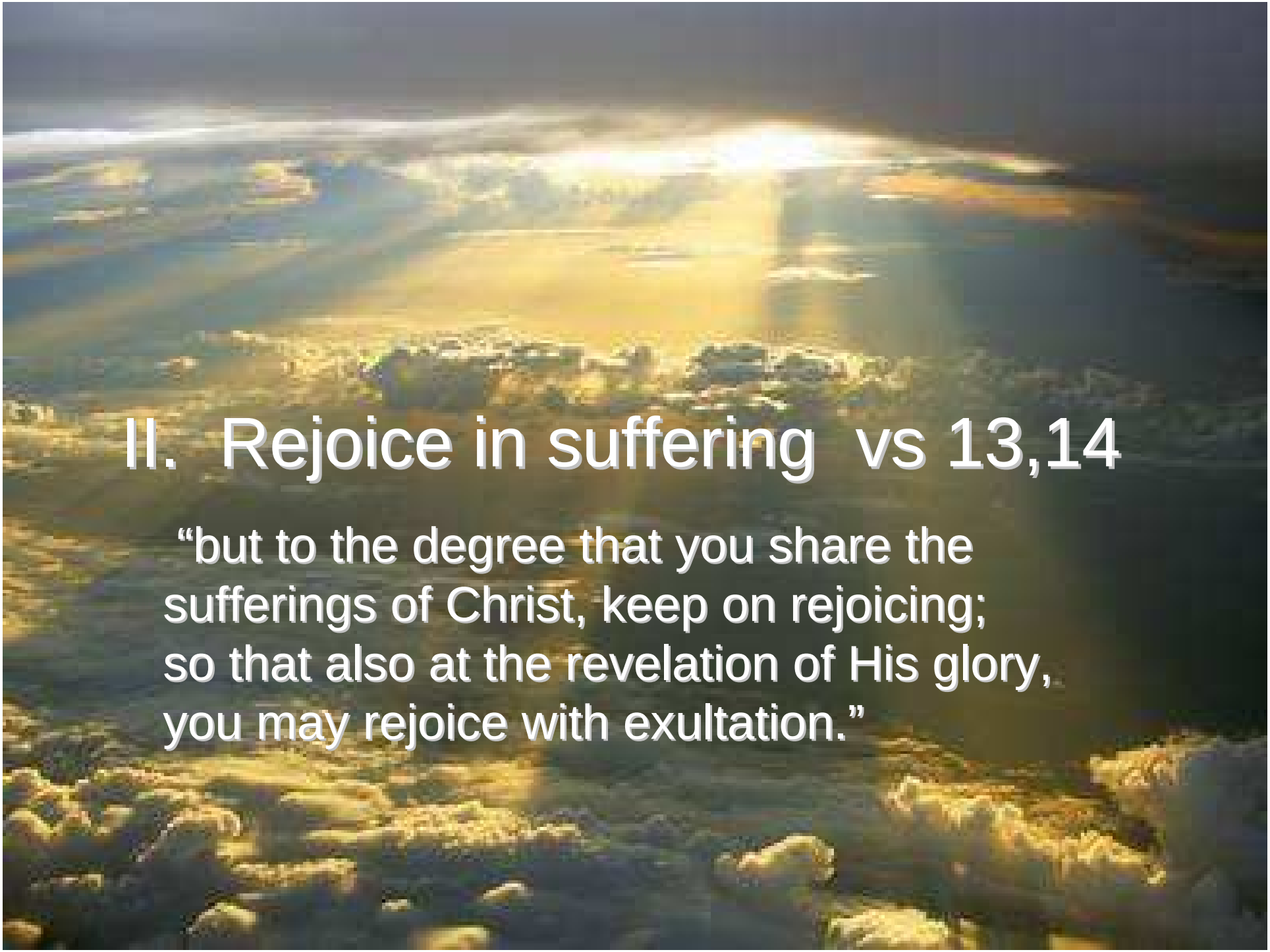
USAF photos



"…the proof of your faith…more precious than gold… though tested by fire." 1Pet 1:7

- The metal is precious to the Refiner.
- His purpose is to burn away the impurities.
- The Refiner is near and watching closely.
- He is the One who regulates the temperature.
- The process is finished when the Refiner's image is reflected in the metal.





II. Rejoice in suffering vs 13,14

"but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation."

Why should we rejoice in trials?

- They help keep us from sinning.
  Psalm 119:67, 1 Pet. 4:1
- They allow us to experience God's presence in a deeper way. Psalm 34:18
- They humble us. Deut. 8:3, 2 Cor. 12:7
- They prepare us to comfort others. 2 Cor. 1:3-4
- They help strengthen our character. James 1:2-4
- They may be part of God's discipline. Heb. 12:5-12

Vs 14 “If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed,”

* How should we respond when reviled?

Ask: Is this criticism deserved or undeserved?

- If deserved, you should confess.

- If undeserved, you are blessed!

Matt. 5:10-12 “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven…”

Vs 14b "…because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you."

"We know that the Spirit indwells every true child of God, but He rests in a special way upon those who are completely committed to the cause of Christ. They know the presence and power of the Spirit of God as others do not." Bill MacDonald

"When a believer suffers, God's presence specially rests and lifts him to strength and endurance beyond the physical dimension."

John MacArthur

III. Suffer for the right reasons vs 15,16

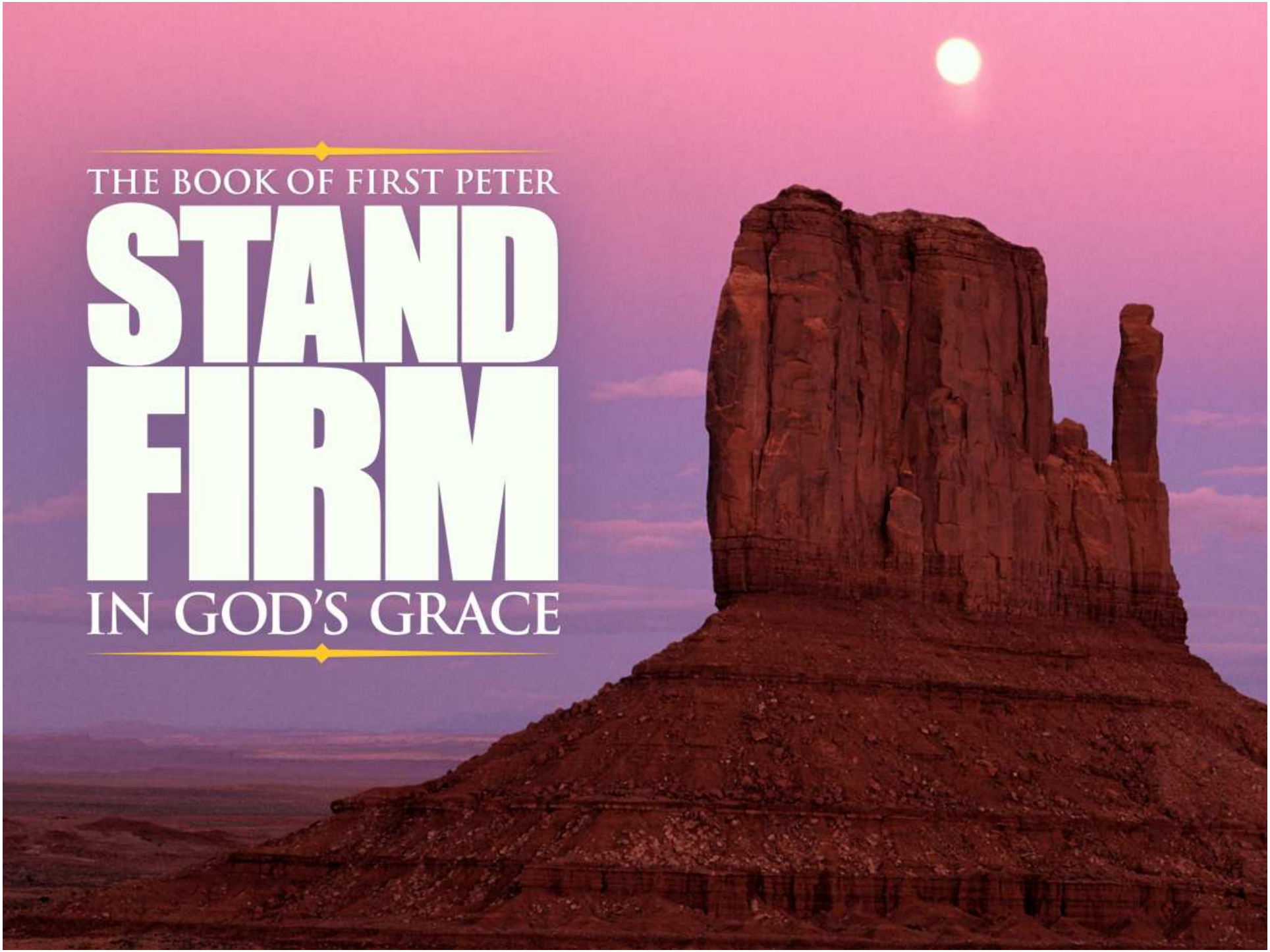
- Vs 15 “By no means let any of you suffer as a: murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler”
- Vs 16 “but if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.”

Suffering can glorify God when:

1) We turn to God for understanding, endurance, and deliverance.
2) We ask important questions we might not take time to think about in our normal routine.
3) We are prepared by it to identify with and comfort others who suffer.
4) We are open to be helped by others who are obeying God.
5) We are ready to learn from God who is absolutely trustworthy and faithful.
6) We realize we can identify with what Christ suffered on the cross for us.
7) We are sensitized to the amount of suffering in the world.

Suffering doesn't glorify God when:

1) We become hardened and reject God.
2) We refuse to ask any questions and miss lessons that might be good for us.
3) We allow it to make us self-centered and selfish.
4) We withdraw from the help others can give.
5) We reject the fact that God can bring good out of calamity.
6) We accuse God of being unjust and perhaps lead others to reject Him.
7) We refuse to be open to any changes God wants to make in our lives.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