

Affliction

Hakam: We are all here tonight knowing that this week everything we went through, all the afflictions we faced this week, were chosen for us for the very purpose of us being made fit. He knows what circumstances we need to be able to stand in now, so that we'll be able to stand in 30 years.

1 Cor 15:1-2 — *I make known to you brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which you received, in which also you stand.*” Hakam talked about afflictions that come to us. Even living here we have certain afflictions that come to us, *“by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed without due consideration”* (by being inconsiderate of what you heard, in the Greek). Our Father is bringing all the circumstances that are necessary for us in order to test the genuineness of our profession, to test the genuineness of our being able to consider. When we heard the good news we had to consider what we heard and not go into some rash confession. The word is “without due consideration,” in verse 2. It says *inconsiderate* in the Greek, which means rash, hasty, careless, thoughtless, heedless, inattentive, without due consideration as regards the consequences which follow such a commitment or such a confession like we confessed when we entered into this life.

We are faced with afflictions in our circumstances every day which test the genuineness of our profession. And Paul spoke about the first things of importance of the good news that he proclaimed to the Corinthians and also the good news he preached to them. And they believed in that, they held to it, and they stand in that conviction.

And if they did, they would have not believed in vain. But some of the people in Corinth, we learn later on, probably believed in vain — without due consideration of what they heard him proclaim. Paul even got to the point of saying that if you do not have an affectionate love toward our Master Yahshua, then you are going to be cut off. And to the Corinthians he said to examine themselves and see if they are really true in the faith.

I know that we have made confessions of our faith in our Master Yahshua and there is a great affliction that comes up in the next 30 years that really will prove our faith. You cannot find a remnant of the Corinthian church anymore, except some great buildings. We want to reconsider the things that we heard when we heard the good news — to reconsider that. If we did not consider it, we are not going to be able to stand in the days that are going to come upon us. I am thankful for what Hakam shared about the furnace of affliction. If we are really genuine and true, it is going to make us silver and gold out of iron and brass.

So that is what we are here for — we are here to be *perfected* in our Master Yahshua. We are going to love no matter what we go through; we are going to stand, no matter what, we are here and we are going to stand. We are not going to give in to any great pressures that come upon us. The floods come and want to sweep us away but it is wonderful that our faith can be tested to see if we are standing in that faith of the gospel that we heard — the gospel of our salvation.

Hakam: *Reconsider* made me think about that song, “in the furnace of affliction I have chosen you, *behold!*” We have to really look at that and understand it and consider that that's what it takes, that we would reconsider it, or else we won't have hope, we won't have proper communication of life to endure through the things that our Father is taking us.

We are thankful that all of our brothers are standing, they got up and are forgiven, and are not carrying anything into this Sabbath rest. That is what it means to strive to enter His rest, that there would not be anything on our conscience that we have not confessed and been cleansed of.

We can be perfect as our Master is perfect — no sins are counted against us because His blood is sufficient.