

October 20

1 Peter 1:20-21 (NIV) ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

When I first began reading the Bible, I would find myself imagining what it would have been like to have walked with Jesus. Imagine listening to His voice and looking into His eyes. Imagine seeing Him walk on water, call Lazarus out of the tomb, and feed thousands with a few fish and loaves. That would have been amazing! Then comes the time when you see the risen Christ in the flesh! He still has the marks on His hands, and you can ask Him questions. Oh, what it would have like to have lived then, because, as this passage says, He was raised from the dead to strengthen their faith and hope.

As usually happens when my thinking takes these turns, the Holy Spirit brings clarification. Yes, it would have been amazing to have been present when Jesus; however, when Jesus ascended into heaven, only 120 people trusted Him and waited in the upper room. So, being present, witnessing these miracles, seeing Jesus in the flesh could not replace our need for faith. Over 600 people witnessed the risen Christ, but the majority walked away. Therefore, had I been there personally, I cannot say that would have been enough for me to remain with Jesus. Jesus tells us blessed are those who believe but have not seen. Our faith is strong because we have not seen. We are able to walk by faith because we cannot see the risen Jesus but believe His Spirit fills us. We have His Word that reveals Him, creation that testifies about Him, and the Holy Spirit Who leads us into His Truth. I now imagine the disciples looking down on us, imagining how exciting it would be to be in our place. We are where we are and when we are because Jesus knows where and when to place us.