

**Look Forward by Thinking Backward**

**James 1:2-4**

*2Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

**Romans 5:3-5**

*3Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

***What does this mean?***

*Consider it joy when struggling to grow mature in faith*

*Understand the work of the Holy Spirit within you*

**Philippians 2:12-13**

*12Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

**1 Timothy 4:7**

*Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness.*

God’s Spirit

* He is our “helper” (John 16:7)
* He convicts us of sin (John 16:8)
* He helps us to put sinful habits to death (Rom 8:13)
* He intercedes on our behalf when we are weak (Rom 8:26-27)
* He leads us (Rom 8:14)
* He gifts us to help others (1 Cor 12:4-7)

*Be reassured that Jesus intercedes for us*

**Luke 22:31-32**

*31“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, 32but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”*

**Hebrews 7:25**

*Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.*

**Romans 8:34**

*Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*

*Recognize we will not receive trials harder than they need to be*

**1 Corinthians 10:13**

*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

*Anticipate eternal rewards beyond comparison*

**2 Corinthians 4:7-18**

**Romans 8:18**

*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*

*01-01-2023 CIC*