

From Pastor's Desk...

## We Trust in the God of Hope

Christian life is not easy, but we rejoice in the Lord because we live in the light of eternity. It is never promised in the Bible that once we commit our life to God, He would keep us immune from hardships. Terrible things may happen on this earth particularly in our life. Job in his unexpected suffering poured out his feelings, "man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble" (Job 14:1).

Lots of questions arise in our minds when life becomes too hard. It leads us to complain, blame, criticize, and to question God too. In the midst of suffering it is very common that we ask why me, my family, my profession, my Church? Or how could it be here when we live a Godly life? Where is God when we are hurt and life becomes messy?

Habakkuk cried out in his frustration, God you are doing nothing! The Lord answered, "look among the nations and watch and be utterly amazed! For I am going to do something in your days" (Habakkuk 1:5). The Lord answered to his complaint again with the ray of hope, "For the revelation awaits an appointed time, it speaks of the end, and will not prove false. Though it lingers, wait for it, it will certainly come and will not delay" (2:3). The book ends with his absolute trust in the God of hope (3:18-19).

Everyone has a private Gethsemane because our Master had already experienced the same. Jesus went through terrible physical, emotional and mental agony in the garden where He chose to pray alone to get special strength from the Father. None of the disciples in the inner circle (Peter, James and John) could be a source of strength. Jesus encountered the challenge alone but it was too hard in his humanity. An angel from heaven appeared and strengthened Jesus (Luke 22:43). Here is the precious hope for a Christian, when life gets hard; the hand of help is extended from heaven.

Everything happens for a reason, that reason causes change. Sometimes it hurts too hard, but in the end, it's all for the best. When we think there is no hope God says, take my hand and let me lead the way. Be still and know I am God and we can do this together.

God bless you.

In His Glorious Ministry,

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## Footprints (Anonymous)

Delvin Koshy

*One night I dreamed a dream.*

*As I was walking along the beach with my Lord, across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonging to me and one to my Lord. After the last scene of my life flashed before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that at many times along the path of my life, especially at the very lowest and saddest times, there was only one set of footprints.*

*This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.*

*"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you, You'd walk with me all the way. But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life, there was only one set of footprints. I don't understand why, when I needed you the most, you would leave me."*

*He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you, Never, ever, during your trials and testing. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."*

*Let us focus on our Lord Jesus the object of our Hope who is able to carry us during the darkest hours of life situations.*

## Count It All Joy

Bejoy Mathew

James starts his letter with a pretty difficult statement "Count it all joy when you fall into various trials". We love to count our blessing and we even sing about naming them one by one for maximum effect. But James states to "count" which mean consider and "all" which well means all, everything, the good and the bad. We try not to think of our most trying times and we tend to block them out.

James is stating to consider all of it with great happiness and to do this when we are in the midst of trials and tribulations. When you consider all the events in your past, you will begin to see all the wondrous works that the Lord has been doing in your life. When you got rejected from the job interview that you really wanted, God opened another job that much better and much more satisfying. We all have similar experiences like this.

It shows us that in the time of the valley of despair and in the shadow of death, God is always there to support us and guide us to where He wants us to go. He will NEVER leave nor forsake us. If our past experiences are considered, we have nothing to fear and that produces a confidence. A feeling of calmness that even though the current situation that we are in is terrible and there is no light at the end of the tunnel, in God's time, He will make all things perfect in a manner that no human can ever do.