

Friday Reflections

“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.”

- James 1:2-3

“These are the times that try men’s souls.”

These words were penned by Thomas Paine, a patriot during the American Revolution during the darker days of our battle for independence. He goes on to say that while some will fall short and give up, those who persevere in the struggle will see victory in the end.

In the Book of James, a similar idea is proposed—that we will all see trials of many sorts, but that we should view them with joy.

Joy?

Doesn’t make sense, does it? And yet the Lord speaking through James said that we should view our trials with joy because the end product is that we will get through them and be better for it. Our faith will increase and our strength will broaden.

These are tough times right now. The pandemic has changed everything. Our residents at Caraday Healthcare and other communities around the country have been in and out of lockdown and their families have been unable to visit. Staff have been stretched at times and everyone is ready for this to be over.

The good news? As more and more people are taking the vaccines at Caraday (staff and residents) as well as throughout the country, COVID-19 rates have been dropping. There IS a light at the end of this dark tunnel.

We don’t need to be joyful for COVID-19. That would be insane. But we can be joyful as we go through it together, knowing that in the end there is a good outcome and we will endure.

Father in heaven, thank you for reminding us that every trial is an opportunity for You to increase our faith and endurance! Amen.

- Dr. Doug Shafer

M.Div., D. Min., Caraday Chaplain

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