

Our next short passage in the book of James is one that centers us. Since God does not tempt us to sin, we can count on him to lead us in the right direction. We can trust that every good and perfect gift comes from Him and we can trust His Word. Read James 1:16-18

We cannot underestimate the value of knowing where our "good gifts" originate. When we look around, we can see God's blessings in the beauty of creation or in our small successes during the day. At STP we recognize the blessing of a dress being donated at just the right time, volunteers helping fill production roles, and financial contributions that we didn't anticipate. God's good gifts are all around us!

But when we hit trials and nothing seems to be going our way, what then? Is God still surrounding us with good gifts? Sometimes we have to take our eyes off of our circumstances and remember God's benefits. Read: Psalm 103

When we are faced with trials of every kind, we must go back to God's Word and be reminded of who He is and what He is doing in our lives. Here's the short list based on Psalm 103.

*The Lord forgives.*                      *The Lord heals.*                      *The Lord redeems.*

*The Lord crowns me with love.*              *The Lord fills my life with good things.*

*The Lord gives righteousness and justice.*

*The Lord reveals His character.*              *The Lord is compassionate.*

*The Lord is merciful.*              *The Lord is slow to anger.*

*The Lord is filled with unfailing love.*      *The Lord has removed our sins.*

*The Lord is tender and compassionate.*      *The Lord knows how weak we are.*

*The Lord's love remains forever!*

When we don't know what to do, how to handle a situation, or wonder why things are so hard, we have to go back to the truth that is in scripture. Psalm 103 is an excellent place to start. When we choose to love and serve the Lord, we need to have a good understanding of the benefits package! How gracious is our God to lay it all out for us?

Psalm 117 reminds us of God's steadfast love and faithfulness. Memorize it! You never know when you might need the reminder. And remember Psalm 103 – write the reference in the front of your Bible so that you can locate it easily. When times are hard, remember who God is by reading and praying through it. By relying on God's Word, we can walk through any trial with joy.

**Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.**

**Romans 12:12 (NLT)**