

Deuteronomy 8:2

And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

In today's verse, this is Moses speaking to the Children of Israel before they would be going into the Promised Land. And if you read the first sentence, being a few days before the end of the 2022, isn't this something we should be reflecting on?

† ***And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way.***

As things got back to somewhat normal in 2022, with the Covid and masks and not being able to go eat at a restaurant, let alone go anywhere else, things did get back to a normal way of life.

But we still need to ask ourselves, what has the Lord done in our lives in 2022, or how has "***God led you all the way***" through 2022? Now I know that we all like to reflect on all the blessings that God has done for us this last year. Like, I got a raise, I got engaged, I got married, I moved into a new home, I got a new job, and so on, which are all things we should be thankful for and boast in the blessings of the Lord in the last year.

But if you read what Moses said for the Children of Israel to remember, it wasn't about the physical blessing they got, because they could be thankful for:

The water God provided for them in the Wilderness.

The food (Manna) that God provided for them everyday for 40 years.

The fact that their sandals and clothes did not wear out in the last 40 years.

How God had protected them from those who wanted to destroy them.

All these are great things to boast about in the Lord and what He did for them. But once again, that's not what Moses said to remember, rather he said to:

remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

I don't know about you, but I have gone through some testing in 2022 and know of so many more who have as well. Even our church has gone through its trial and testing this year. But we want to forget about those, because they hurt when they happened. But we tend to forget that the purpose of them was to teach us and to help us grow as Children of God.

Think about it, through the testing that has happened to you in 2022, have you grown as a Christian, or did you just give into them; therefore, are you still the same Christian you were the beginning of the year, or even have become more backslidden in your walk this last year?

These are things that we need to think about the end of each year. Because if we have not grown, the only one to blame is ourselves. But if we have grown, we need to reflect on those things that the Lord allowed to help us to grow, because they were a learning experience. And even though we all want 2023 to be a better year (But don't we say that at the end of each year), it may be a better year, but it may also involve trials and testing, not as punishment, but to help us grow in our walk with the Lord.

† **Zechariah 13:9** *I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'The LORD is my God.' "*

I know many have prayer journals where they record their prayers and when they were answered. What if we also kept a record of the trial(s) we have gone through throughout the year, but also recorded what we learned and how we grew through that trial.

† **1 Corinthians 10:13** *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

We would do so for our benefit, but also for the benefit of others, so that we can help those that will be going through the same thing we have. Maybe not this year, but sometime in the future, just as others were a encouragement and comfort to us during our trial(s) in 2022.

† **1 Thessalonians 3:2-3 (NLT2)** *and we sent Timothy to visit you. He is our brother and God's co-worker in proclaiming the Good News of Christ. We sent him to strengthen you, to encourage you in your faith, and to keep you from being shaken by the troubles you were going through. But you know that we are destined for such troubles.*

† **Job 16:5** *But I would strengthen you with my mouth, And the comfort of my lips would relieve your grief.*

† **Psalm 27:14** *Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!*

† **Psalm 31:24** *Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, All you who hope in the LORD.*