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Romans 5:3-4

(3) Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; (4) perseverance, character; and character, hope.

When asked how my faith informs how I undertake my work, career, and sense of calling, it didn't take me long to think that there hasn't been a time when I have not thought about my faith and sought to be closer to God. That may have been from my circumstances. From my first memories of arriving in the US at the age of four, I knew the fear of the unknown and that my life was not in my hands. Things didn't improve when shortly afterwards my parents split up. Imagine, a single mom, immigrant, not knowing the language, struggling to have enough to provide for her children.

Despite other hardships and adversities growing up, I knew that I was running a race. The race wasn't just spiritual but existential. I knew that if I wanted better, I had to struggle and persevere. Leaving home to go to college at 16, then learning to fly in the US Navy as a young officer. So when asked to choose a bible verse that has informed my journey in life, I immediately thought of the verse that I've lived firsthand from a young age: "glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope"

Later in my naval career (and how I came to Arlington), I worked at the Pentagon offering recommendations to senior decision makers. Some of these actions were not clear cut and the path to choose was only informed by the fundamentals of what I thought was right. The deepest sense of what I knew to be right, and good, could have only come from my faith. Prayer has also been a companion, both in my professional and personal life. Whether in the cockpit, Pentagon, or punctuating family crises, prayer has also been a great comfort.

In my current position of being a consultant (or contractor) for the Government, I advise on IT acquisitions and guide young professionals as they start their careers. I stress that the most important part of business collaborations are personal relationships and establishing trust. What better principles to stress but those echoed by our faith: humility, patience, kindness, and perseverance.

So rather than ask how my faith informs my work, I would ask what else would more fundamentally affect our sense of right and wrong? Especially during this past year's travails of the global pandemic and national, racial and political strife; where reality was questioned and truth under attack, what else would there be to hold fast to, but the simple truth of love as borne out by our faith?

James 1:12

(12) Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

As I've grown older, I have only come to learn and appreciate more, the wisdom of the bible and our faith, its sublime beauty and wisdom, Christ's example of sacrifice and most of all, love. I also look forward to the future, for these past years have lead to a reawakening, spurred on by our young people, in caring for each other, their environment, and seeking not only to accept their differences, but to celebrate our diversity. Led by the example of the courageous faith leaders of the civil rights movement, our young are taking up the mantle of Christ-like leadership in seeking glory for God's creation.