

## **"What good can come from this?"**

As we live our lives, we often encounter unexpected situations that surprise or confuse us, and sometimes we may even ask, "Why is this happening to me?" while blaming God. It's ironic that even those who loudly claim not to believe in God's existence often find themselves blaming Him (you know whom I'm referring to) when they face bewildering moments in life.

Due to an unprecedented storm in California's history, we have been living without electricity for the past few days. While many homes have had their power restored, it's Thursday morning, and my family is still living without it. We've been without electricity since Sunday evening, making it five days now.

On Monday, we went to Walmart to buy flashlights only to find that the good ones were all sold out, so we ended up buying a medium-sized flashlight and two candles. Without electricity and internet, my daughter Faith couldn't do her homework, so she had to spend Monday and Tuesday at Starbucks to study and complete her assignments. When she went to school on Wednesday, she found out that everyone else in her class had their power back, and she complained about why our house was still without power. I told her, "Faith, it's not just us without power. There are many families in California still living without it. It might come back tomorrow or in a few days, so let's not complain and try to adapt. Aren't we fortunate to still have running hot water?" Though I said this, I also felt a bit of complaint rising within me because I thought the power would return in a couple of days, and now it's been four days, which is quite inconvenient.

Yesterday, when I went to the church, I forgot to charge my phone, so when I returned home, my phone had only 30% battery left, and by bedtime, it was down to 10%. My wife, June's phone, was already dead. I worried, "What if my phone dies overnight and the alarm doesn't go off?" but I set the alarm for 5:55 am and went to sleep. Fortunately, the alarm did go off, and my phone had 2% battery left. Although only 2% remained, I was relieved that I could now get from home to church without GPS.