A painting of a man in a white robe and head covering walking through a field of purple flowers, with a vast, hilly landscape in the background. The man is walking towards the right, looking back over his shoulder. The landscape is filled with rolling hills and greenery, with a large tree on the left side. The sky is a soft, hazy blue.

“But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.”

• (Lk. 8:15)

Growing Patiently

1st Sunday of Hatour

1. Spiritual Maturity

- Growing to spiritual maturity does not occur naturally BUT purposefully
- Spiritual growth does not occur spontaneously
 - But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Cor. 3:18)



1. Spiritual Maturity



- We ought to mature in Christ
 - “And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; 3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?” (1 Cor. 3:1-3)

2. Overcoming a sin

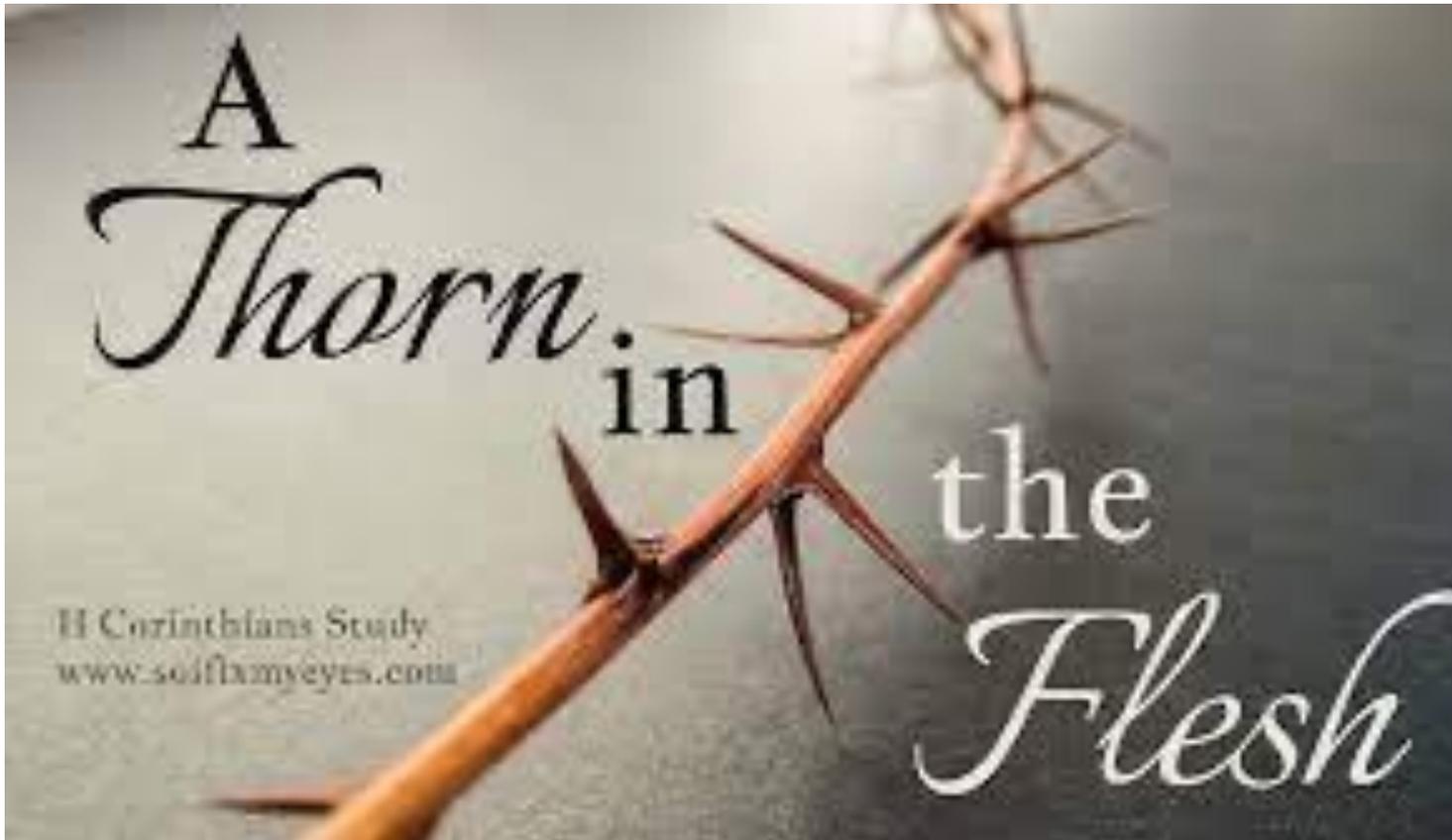
- Overcoming a sin can take many years
- Is there value in the “struggle”?
 - “For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin.” (Heb. 12:3-4)



3. The Fruit in Service

- Christ and the Samaritan woman preach in Samaria, then Philip
 - “Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. 6 And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.” (Acts 8:5-6)

4. Enduring Hardship



- “Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Cor. 12:8-10)

5. The Repentance of Others

St. Monica

