God's Uncommon Sense

Ecclesiastes 7:10

Say not thou, What is *the cause* that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this.

King James Version

Never ask, "Oh, why were things so much better in the old days?" It's not an intelligent question.

Good News Translation

Time and Distance Blur Vision of the Past

- Was Egypt *really* better? Numbers 14:1-10
- Was my old sinful life *really* better? II Peter 2:17-22

"I'm just not as happy as a once was…"

- The joy of new life seems to have faded…
  - Everything was fresh and new then
  - The "gold has turned to gray"
- We *may* have slipped from inspired faithfulness
- We *may* be mistaking "profound-er blessedness" as "diminished happiness"
  - Tranquility of mind follows a deeper submission to God and embedded spiritual thought
  - The chastened heart that has survived the strain and stress of years is real

"I'm just not as holy as I once was…"

- We may have allowed our "spotless garments" to become sullied

- It *may* be that consciousness of imperfection has been sharpened
  - We are now more acutely aware of the impact of worldliness in life
  - We are not less pure than formerly, but the Spirit has taught us more perfectly
    - Failures once latent are now uncovered
    - Clearer vision detects more imperfections

- It is *possible* to grow in grace and spiritual strength while finding ever-increasing room for growth

"I'm just not progressing in faith as I once did…"

- It may be that we stopped growing, "…you did run well…" and are now "…hindered…", Hebrews 12:1
- It *may* be that growth is asymptotic
  - It is harder to go from a 98 to a 99 than from 10 to 20
  - Our first experience with the new life are in such stark contrast that progress is vivid

"I just don't love God as much as I once did…"

- The church at Ephesus did "leave its first love" for God, Revelation 2:4
- Our less passionate love *may* be equally genuine
  - The test of love is sacrifice
  - The test of love is obedience
  - The test of love is confidence and trust