

# James

*~Authentic Faith At Work~*

# James 1:1

“James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.”

# James 1:2-4

- 2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,
- 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.
- 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.



# James 1:2-4

- If you could summarize these verses into a simple phrase or description, what would it be?
  - A right (joyful) response to trials.
- What is the context of these verses? Do they connect to vs. 1? If so, how?
  - “dispersed abroad” – These “brethren” (vs. 2) are Christians facing hardship, so James addresses their response to that hardship in vs. 2-4.



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# “Trials”





# “Trials”

- The Puritan theologian John Trapp “*One Son God hath without sin, but none without sorrow.*”
- Trials - peirasmos (πειρασμός) – test, trial, temptation.
- What is the difference between a trial and a temptation (the verb form of the same Greek word is used in vs. 13-14)?
- The difference is my response.



# “Trials”



# “Trials”

- Faith
- Prayer
- Diligence
- Patience
- Priorities
- Direction

RESPONSE

- Anger
- Fear
- Discouragement
- Laziness
- Divorce
- Stealing



# “Trials”

- Trials are a regular part of life.
  - John 16:33 “In the world you will have tribulation”
- Some trials come simply because we are human (sickness, accidents, disappointments, tragedies).
- Other trials may come because we are a Christian.
  - John 15:20 “If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.”



# “Trials”

- Observations about trials
  - Trials come upon Christians – vs. 2
  - Trials are certain – vs. 2
  - Trials are not always self-induced – vs. 2
  - Trials are not always the same – vs. 2
  - Trials are a useful tool in God’s hand – vs. 3
  - Trials can result in maturity – vs. 4

# My Response to Trials



2. Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,
- Surely that must mean something different than all joy...right??
  - Trials don't make me think
  - Is James ignorant? Insensitive?
  - Is there a reason for a joyful response to trials?





# How “all joy” is possible

- What type of emotional response is typically brought about by trials?
- Notice that the words “all joy” seem to be the opposite of this type of response.
- We assume that we are being commanded to change our emotions...but are we?
- The command (imperative) in vs. 2 is not about our emotions.
- Which word in vs. 2 is the imperative (command)?



# How “all joy” is possible

## *“Consider”*

- God doesn't command our feelings. He commands our thinking.
- *Consider* – To think, to regard, to reckon, to evaluate.
- Think about your trial differently.
  - Evaluate your trial in light of God's purpose in it.

# How “all joy” is possible

“If we value comfort more than character, then trials will upset us. If we value the material and physical more than the spiritual, we will not be able to ‘count it all joy.’ If we live only for the present and forget the future, then trials will make us bitter, not better.”

-Wiersbe



# Why “all joy” is possible

## “*knowing*”

- Know that God allows trials to test your faith.
  - *Testing* – proof of the genuineness or validity of something.
  - We do this all the time.
  - Can you think of any Bible examples of someone whose faith was tested?
  - So, is the testing of our faith good or bad?





# Why “all joy” is possible

## “*knowing*”

- The testing of our faith may be difficult, but it brings about a good result in us. What is that result?
- *Endurance* – Steadfastness, perseverance, patient endurance.
- *hupomone* (ὑπομονή) – *hupo* – under, and *meno* – to stay, abide, remain.
- This endurance is not passive submission to circumstances, but it is active steadfastness in circumstances.

# Why “all joy” is possible





# Why “all joy” is possible

## “*knowing*”

- Trials are God’s tools to develop our endurance, because we don’t get endurance by reading a book.
- Endurance is built in times of difficulty.
  - Athletics illustrates this well.
  - Do Christians need endurance?
- The danger in trials is the temptation to cut the process short.



# Why “all joy” is possible

“You may give up, stop struggling, fall apart, or blow up before reaching the blessing. Many Christians are quitters. Or you may give into some temptation arising out of the the trial. You may settle for less than God has planned for you. You may reach for solutions that weaken rather than strengthen your faith. And, you may circumvent the trial altogether by refusing to assume some responsibility that is rightfully yours.” - Jay Adams

# Why “all joy” is possible





# Why “all joy” is possible

“We do not rejoice over the trial itself, nor do we feign indifference to the pain. Rather, disciples should be like women who rejoice to learn that they carry a child. A woman knows that she faces nausea and painful childbirth, but she rejoices because she looks past the adversities of the process and sees the end – the birth of her child. So it is with the Christian.” - Doriani

# Why “all joy” is possible

4. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
  - God wants to make you:
    - Perfect: Mature, grown up
    - Complete: Whole, entire
    - Lacking in nothing: coming up short/missing nothing
  - Maturity is a good thing. Children must grow up.



# Why “all joy” is possible

- “All joy” is possible because God is at work in you to make you a complete, mature, fully equipped Christian.

God allows trials to test my faith



The testing of my faith produces endurance



Endurance brings about maturity



We want maturity (to be strong and grown up)



So, consider it all joy

# Conclusion

- The path to wholeness and completion leads through trials.
- God uses trials to expose my weaknesses and show me where I must grow.
- My attitude toward my trial reveals my spiritual condition.
- Stop asking why God allows the difficulty. I know why, and I can rejoice that it is for my good.
- A joyful response to trials would preach a glorious message to the watching world.



# Conclusion

- What trial, difficulty, hardship, stress, pressure is God allowing in your life right now to mature you?
- What has been your response to that difficulty?
- What are you going to do in light of what you know?