
Turning Your Trials Into Triumphs

James 1:2-4

One of the reasons James wrote his epistle is to encourage his persecuted fellow believers as they go through various tests and trials for their faith. James says these trials are not only inevitable but necessary for testing the validity and genuineness of their faith. Trials are normal part of man's life (Job 14:1, 5:7, Psalm 22:11, 31:9, John 16:33, Acts 14:22, 2 Cor 4:8, Phil 1:29; 2 Pet. 2:14; 1 Pet. 4:12).

God calls us to endure and persevere in trials and the benefit that we receive through trials depends (in large degree) upon how we look at them and the spirit with which we respond to them. James gives several essential attitudes in order to persevere or endure trials.

1. *Begin* _____

Paul demonstrates the same attitude in Philippians 4:4 and in Acts 16:25. Our Lord Jesus exemplified it in Hebrews 12:2 and He illustrates it in John 16:20-21.

Peter taught it in 1 Peter 2:20. Paul says the same thing in Philippians 1:29 and practiced it in Philippians 2:17.

2. *Believe* _____

We need to know that the testing of our faith produces patience. So, we need to know that the daily trials that we experience are producing something beneficial. We should know;

a. _____

b. _____

Paul declares in Romans 8:28 that all things work for good. He also says in 2 Cor. 4:17 that our afflictions are working for us and not against us.

c. _____

Romans 5:3-4 that tribulation produces patience, which produces character and which in turn results into hope (cf. 2 Thess.1:3). Job understood this truth in Job 23:10.

3. *Behave* _____

In Hebrews 12:5-7 we read that God chastens and disciplines His own children. Submission is necessary because Paul says 1 Cor. 10:13 that the only way out of trials is by bearing it or going through it.

Personal Reflection

- Do I have a joyful spirit when I am going through trials? _____
- Do I have the right mindset? Do I understand why God is allowing my faith to be tested?

- Am I fully submitting to God or am I fighting Him? Am I rebelling against Him by disobeying His word?

- Do I want to change? _____
- My Personal Prayer & Commitment: _____

