

Turning Trials into Triumphs

James 1:2-12

James tells us that we can have this same experience today. No matter what the trials may be on the outside or the temptations on the inside, through faith in Christ we can experience victory. The result of this victory is spiritual maturity.

- There are four essentials for victory in trials:

1. A Joyful Attitude

- **Outlook determines outcome, and attitude determines action.** God tells us to expect trials. It is not “If you fall into various testing’s” but “When you fall into various testing’s.”
- The believer who expects his Christian walk to be easy is in for a shock! Paul told his converts that “We must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God.” (Acts 14:22)
- Because we are God’s scattered people and not His sheltered people, we must experience trials.
- Some trials come simply because we are human—sickness, accidents, disappointments, and tragedies. Other trials come because we are Christians. Paul wrote, “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trials which are to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you.” (1 Peter 4:12) Satan fights us, the world opposes us, and it makes for a life of battle.

- James says to, “Count it all pure joy my brothers, whenever you are faced with trials of many kinds.” (James 1:2) The key word is “Count”. It is a financial term and it means to “evaluate.” Paul used this term many times in Philippians 3. When Paul became a Christian, he evaluated his life and set new goals and priorities.
- When faced with the trials of life, we must evaluate them in the light of what God doing for us.
- So, when trials come, immediately give thanks to the Lord and adopt a joyful attitude. Look at trials through the eyes of faith. Remember, “Outlook determines outcome.”

2. The second essential for victory in trials is: Having an Understanding Mind.

- What do Christians know that makes it easier to face trials and benefit from them?
 - **Number one:** We know faith is always tested!!!! When God called Abraham to live by faith, he tested him in order to increase his faith. God always tests us to bring out the best; Satan tempts us to bring out the worst. The testing of our faith proves that we are truly born again.
 - **Number 2:** Testing works for us, not against us. The word “Trying” can be translated “Approval.” Peter said, “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes.” (1 Peter 1:7)
 - A gold prospector brings in his gold to an expert to get the ore tested. The sample isn’t worth much more than a few dollars, but the “Approval” is worth millions.

- God's approval of our faith is crucial, because it assures us that our faith is genuine.
- Remember, trials work for us not against us. Paul wrote in Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good." 2 Cor.4:17 "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."
 - **Number 3: Trials Rightly Used Help Us Grow.**
- What does God want to produce in our lives? Patience, endurance, and the ability to keep going when things get tough.
- In the Bible, patience is not a passive acceptance of circumstances. It is a courageous perseverance in the face of suffering and difficulty.
- The only way the Lord can develop patience and Character in our lives is through trials. Endurance cannot be attained by reading a book, listening to a sermon, or even praying a prayer. We must go through the difficulties of life, trust God, and obey Him. The results we be patience and Character!