

# Joy in Trials



## James 2a:

- Consider it all joy, my brethren when (not if) you face trials of many kinds
- Consider – “To regard or count as such”
- Joy – “The emotion produced by the prospect of possessing what one desires” (We should desire Holiness above all things)

Believe that we will become more Christlike through life's trials as they are allowed in our lives.

## James 1:3

<sup>3</sup>Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance ( a patient, steadfast, sustaining perseverance).

## 1 Peter 4:12-13:

<sup>12</sup>Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you, <sup>13</sup>but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation

# Reasons for Trials

## 1) We live in a fallen world:

- **Romans 8:20-21**

<sup>20</sup>For the creation was subject to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that <sup>21</sup>the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

- **John 16:33**

“These things I have spoke to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage, I have overcome the world.”

**2) Trials are designed to refine us (We may have sin in our lives):**

• **Psalm 119:66-67**

<sup>66</sup>Teach me good discernment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments. <sup>67</sup>Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.

• **Hebrews 12:7-11**

It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

8But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? 10For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He *disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His Holiness.* 11All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

### **3) Trials are used to refine others through us:**

- **Job 1-2**

- **James 5:10-11:**

<sup>10</sup>For examples of patience and suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. For example, you know about Job, a man of great endurance. You can see how the Lord was kind to him in the end, for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy.

## *How to Handle Trials*

**1)** Ask God for guidance and wisdom through the trial:

- **James 1:5:**

But if anyone lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

- **Psalm 139:23-24:**

<sup>23</sup>Search me, O God and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts; <sup>24</sup>And see if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.



- **Psalm 32:8:**

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you. <sup>9</sup>  
Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check

**2)** Use the scriptures as a guide through the trial you are facing:

• **Romans 15:4:**

For what was ever written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

\*This is where we use the promises of God as a weapon to battle through these tough times.

## **Using the promises: James 1:6**

“We must believe and not doubt” for the one who doubt is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person is double minded and unstable and should not expect anything from God.

**A)** Search out a promise (event) pertaining to your situation.

**B)** Do the task and cling to the promise

**C)** Trust that God will do the rest and give you what you need through the trial:

## **A) Comfort – II Corinthians 1:3-5:**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God

## **B) Strength – Isaiah 40:29-31:**

<sup>29</sup>He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. <sup>30</sup>Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly,

<sup>31</sup> Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.

### **C) Provision/Protection – Psalm 84:11:**

For the Lord God is a sun AND a shield; The Lord gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly

## Takeaways:

**1)** We must see trials for what they are (an opportunity to bring glory to God by becoming more like Him and showing Him to others). And strive to do just that through them.

### **Philippians 1:18-21:**

<sup>18</sup>Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, <sup>19</sup>for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

<sup>20</sup>according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup>For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

**2) We must trust that God is going to deliver us/get us through this ordeal. We must learn to rely completely on God for all things, especially in tough times.**

**1 Peter 5:9-11:**

<sup>9</sup>But resist him (Satan), firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. <sup>10</sup>After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to be His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. <sup>11</sup>To Him be the dominion forever and ever Amen..



**3)** We must remember that God will never give us more than we can handle

**1 Corinthians 10:13:**

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

4) We must believe that God has already given us everything we need to get through it by a knowledge of Him and the Scriptures.

### **2 Peter 1:3-4:**

<sup>3</sup>Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. <sup>4</sup>For by these He has granted to us His precious promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

## 5) The Helmet of Salvation:

We must understand and draw strength from the fact that our sufferings are nothing compared to the eternal glory/reward we are heading for.

### **Romans 8:18-19:**

<sup>18</sup>For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.