

James 1:2-12

Turning Trials into Triumph

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1. What is the required attitude when you encounter trials? How does this increase your faith?

James 1:2

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

Consider it all joy (NASB)

Pure joy (NIV)

Be glad (CEV)

Count it all joy (NKJV)

1. What is the required attitude when you encounter trials? How does this increase your faith?

Jesus is our example of how trials produce joy.

Heb. 12:1-3

1 Therefore, since we have so great a **cloud of witnesses** surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the **author and perfecter of faith**, who **for the joy set before Him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

1. What is the required attitude when you encounter trials? How does this increase your faith?

Trials or Temptations:

1. Test us.
2. Try us.
3. Prove us.
4. Make us stronger, pure and righteous.

1. What is the required attitude when you encounter trials? How does this increase your faith?

1 Peter 3:14-16

14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled,

15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

16 and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.

2. What does the “testing of your faith” produce?

James 1:3-4

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**.

Endurance expresses a growing determination in the face of adversity, based on hope.

2. What does the “testing of your faith” produce?

Joy and Endurance

It makes you mature, complete (full), lacking in nothing.

1 Peter 4:12-13

12 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;

13 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.

2. What does the “testing of your faith” produce?

Rom. 5:3-5

3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;

4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;

5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

2. What does the “testing of your faith” produce?

2 Peter 1:4-8

4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent 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 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge,

6 and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness,

7 and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness,

8 For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. What does the “testing of your faith” produce?

1 Cor. 10:13

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 the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

2. What does the “testing of your faith” produce?

If a person’s faith is genuine, it will prove itself during times of trouble, whatever the nature or source of the trouble may be.

1. Trials are to test the strength of our faith. In many ways the Lord assists us in taking spiritual inventory by bringing trials into our lives to demonstrate to us the strength or weakness of our faith.
2. Trials are given to humble us, to remind us to trust in the Lord.
3. God allows us to suffer trials in order to wean us from our dependence on worldly things.
4. Trials are to call us to eternal and heavenly hope.

2. What does the “testing of your faith” produce?

5. Trials are to reveal what we really love.

6. Trials are given to teach us to value God’s blessings.

7. The Lord uses trials to develop, in His saints, enduring strength for greater usefulness.

8. The Lord uses trials to enable us to better help others in their trials.

3. Who are some individuals we read about in the Bible that turned defeat into victory and trials into triumph?

Throughout the Bible are people who turned defeat into victory and trials into triumph:

Job - (Job 1-3)

Joseph – (Gen. 37,39,40)

Moses - (Num. 11:14-15)

Elijah - (1 Kings 19)

David - (1 Sam. 18-30; Ps. 41-43)

Jeremiah - (Jer. 20:14-18)

Paul – (2 Cor. 12:7-10)

Jesus – (Matt. 4:1-11; Heb. 5:7)

3. Who are some individuals we read about in the Bible that turned defeat into victory and trials into triumph?

Gen. 50:20

20 “As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

Rom. 8:28

28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

4. How and why do we ask God for wisdom?

James 1:5-8

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

6 But he must **ask in faith without any doubting**, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

8 *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

We ask God for wisdom because we all need it.

Pray to God and ask Him in faith without doubting.

4. How and why do we ask God for wisdom?

WISDOM

1. **Wisdom is not merely knowledge (involves information, facts, etc.).**
2. **Wisdom is the ability or insight to properly use those facts in the most expeditious way.**
3. **Wisdom is applied knowledge.**
4. **Wisdom is having a grasp of the principles needed in circumstances that allow us to succeed.**

4. How and why do we ask God for wisdom?
5. **Knowledge** – of what God says - - (Thus it comes from God.)
6. **Practice** – (The product of following God's instructions)
7. **Experience** – (Living through the opportunities God provides)
8. **Through God's providential care** – (during the trials and hardships we are called to face)

5. Why does James introduce the theme of riches and poverty in this section?

James 1:9-11

9 But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position;

10 and the rich man *is to glory* in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away.

11 For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.

5. Why does James introduce the theme of riches and poverty in this section?

Rejoice in one's status in life

1. The poor believer is exalted by Christ.
2. The rich believer is humbled by Christ.
 - a. The rich face a danger – false security
 - b. The body of the rich ages and dies.
(Illustrated by the burning heat of the sun)
 - c. The pursuits of the rich fade away.

5. Why does James introduce the theme of riches and poverty in this section?

1. The poor believer is exalted by Christ.

A. The believer of lowly status is to rejoice in the Lord.

B. This does not mean that he is to rejoice because he is poor, unhealthy, or crippled.

C. It means that he rejoices in Christ despite the circumstances—no matter how terrible.

D. A poor believer does not allow his status to defeat him, but rather conquers his status in order to develop a strong spirit. The wisdom of God will enable that person to conquer any trial or temptation thrown against him.

5. Why does James introduce the theme of riches and poverty in this section?

2. The rich believer is humbled by Christ.

A. A rich believer is not accepted or rejected by God based on his wealth. His rich and high status means absolutely nothing to God.

B. All men—no matter their status in life—stand before God as equals. Let the rich believer rejoice in God and in the fact that God accepts him based on his faith.

C. A rich believer must use his earthly wealth to help meet the needs of the starving, impoverished, diseased, homeless, sinful, dying, and the lost.

6. What are the results of trials?

James 1:12

12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

Christians who persevere under trials will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

6. What are the results of trials?

A. God is sovereign over our trials.

1. We learn to grow in His likeness.
2. We learn to trust in His wisdom.
3. We learn to rely on His resources.
4. We learn to live for His reward.

6. What are the results of trials?

Trials and temptations make us:

- A. More perfect
- B. Entire
- C. Mature
- D. Complete

7. What do the trials that you encounter in your personal Christian walk do for you?

- 1. Increase my faith.**
- 2. Strengthen my defenses against Satan.**
- 3. Allow me to please God.**