

Series: Faith in Action  
"Enduring Trials" # 2  
James 1: 2-12  
1-17-16 Sun AM

1. We would all like a tranquil life with no pain and suffering. Often asked questions, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" or "Why didn't God bring healing?"

2. James tells us how to turn our trials into Triumphs and deal with our trials. It's a matter of perspective and understanding that trials work for the believer and not against the believer.

**TT:** Tonight I want to share how we can endure trials that work for us and not against us.

**1. Understand the Present Benefit of the Trial [vv. 2-4].**

A. James says that if your faith is real, it will prove itself in times of trouble (1 Peter 1:4-7). The trying of your faith worketh?

B. Divers temptations?

"Divers" means various which means "many colored." It speaks of a diversity of trials that can come our way.

[vv. 1-12] deals with the trying, proving, or testing of your faith while [vv. 13-27] deals with temptation to sin.

Tests come from God to make us better, while temptations come from Satan to make us bitter.

What makes the trial a test or a temptation is according to how we respond. Believers prove their faith is real by persevering while unbelievers prove they have no genuine faith by turning from God.

Three crucial words-

1. Count- attitude [v. 2].

Count means to consider, to evaluate. To count a trial as a joy is not a human response. It takes looking beyond the trial to what the trial will accomplish. How do you look beyond?

**Phil. 4: 4, 11**

Note that phrase “when you fall.” We can expect trials in this life. They come in many ways and from many sources- from humanness, from being a Christian, from our sin, or the sin of others.

We know they come to prove and deepen our faith, to draw us closer to an intimate fellowship in our journey toward Christ-likeness.

## 2. Know- mind [v. 3].

We know by experience that if we persevere, our faith is real and strengthened. We need to have an understanding mind that trials work for us and not against us.

"Trying" means to prove, to produce, to accomplish. "Patience" means spiritual endurance or perseverance.

God never puts us thru a trial we can't handle thru him.

**Turn to 1 Cor. 10:13**, Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. (13) There hath no temptation [testing, proving or trial] taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

## 3. Let- will [v. 4].

"Let" means to submit to God's purpose for the trial so you can be made mature. What if we don't let?

The best way out of a trial is through the trial! So we can develop Godly character.

### 1. **Understand the Present Benefit of the Trial [vv. 2-4].**

### 2. **Don't be ashamed to ask God for understanding about the trial [vv. 5-11].**

Two attitudes...

#### 1. Prayerful Attitude (vs. 5-8).

Part of our attitude, understanding, and submission to the trial is to ask God for wisdom.

**v. 5:** is one of the most interpreted and misapplied verses in the bible- test, how to get out of the trial. We ask of God for wisdom about the trial and how to handle the trial.

Why do we need wisdom when going thru trials? So the trial will not be wasted in making us like Jesus. So we can focus on the God of the trial rather than the trial itself.

**vs. 6-8:** How are we to ask? In faith believing he will give us wisdom, not take the trial away.

2: Humble Spirit (vs. 9-11).

The materially poor believer should rejoice in his spiritual riches and the materially rich man should glory in humiliation.

If you are blessed materially, healthy, and good condition, you should rejoice when trials come to teach us the transitory nature of things and inability to give lasting peace.

**1. Understand the Present Benefit of the Trial [vv. 2-4].**

**2. Don't be ashamed to ask God for understanding about the trial [vv. 5-11].**

**3. Understand the Future Benefit of Future Trials [v. 12].**

People that endure trials are truly happy. It's not a shallow joy of a spectator but the joy of the one who fought and won.

We prove we love God by perseverance. Continuation has and always will be the mark of true Christianity.

The reward is the crown of life for enduring trials, one of five crowns for the believer.

1. Crown of Life for those who love Him (James 1:12).
2. Crown of righteousness to those who Love His appearing (2 Tim. 4:8).
3. Crown of glory to faithful Pastors (1 Peter 5:4).
4. Imperishable Crown to those who run a faithful race (1 Cor. 9:24-25).
5. Crown of Rejoicing those who are soul-winners (1 Thess. 2:19).

So enduring in trials involves our attitude, our mind, our will, and our heart.

**Next time-** Who is to blame for our sins? [1: 13-18]