

~PROFITING  
FROM  
TRIALS~

~TRIALS AND YOUR ATTITUDE IN THE TRIAL

JAMES 1:2-4

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## **“Profiting from trials: trials and your attitude in the trial”**

James 1:2-4

*“Dear brothers and sister, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.”* **New Living Translation**

*“My brothers and sisters, you will face all kinds of trouble. When you do, think of it as pure joy. Your faith will be put to the test. You know that when that happens it will produce in you the strength to continue. The strength to keep going must be allowed to finish its work. Then you will be all you should be. You will have everything you need.”* **New International Version**

*“Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don’t try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.”* **The Message Bible**

### **Introduction**

Believers do not experience exemptions from difficulties. When encountering adversity we are to “count it all joy” which requires a deliberate intellectual appraisal of the situation from God’s perspective. Trials must be viewed as opportunities for spiritual growth and maturity.

James encourages us to rejoice in the possible results of suffering and not in the trials themselves. Testing implies the idea of proving genuineness and serves as a discipline to purge us of all impurity, to burn out the dross of human character, to leave us cleansed and purified and stripping away all that is false.

### **Trial (temptation) Defined**

1. The state or fact of being tried by suffering
2. A putting to proof by experiment, experience, solicitation, frustration or irritation
3. Scrutinize, discipline, examine, prove

St. John 16:33b

*“In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I’ve conquered the world.”*

- ...you are under pressure (The Berkley Version of the NT)
- ...you have affliction (the New Testament in Modern Speech)
- ...you will find suffering (The Four Gospels)
- ...you will find trouble (The Twentieth Century NT)

## **Purpose of Trials**

1. Troubles are often the tools by which God fashions us for better things. (H.W. Beecher)
2. I Peter 5:8-10 *“Keep a cool head. Stay alert. The Devil is poised to pounce, and would like nothing better than to catch you napping. Keep you guard up. You’re not the only ones plunged into these hard times. It’s the same with Christians all over the world. So keep a firm grip on the faith. The suffering won’t last forever. It won’t be long before this generous God who has great plans for us in Christ-for good. He get the last word; yes, he does.”*
3. Trials work patience
  - a. Romans 5:3-5 *“There’s more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we’re hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever god will do next. In alert expectancy such as this, we’re never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary-we can’t round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit!”*
4. Trials are for our refining:
  - a. Job 23:10
  - b. Psalms 66:10
  - c. I Peter 4:12-19
  - d. Isaiah 48:10
  - e. Malachi 3:2-3

## **Your Attitude**

As we learn to rejoice, be patient and continually pray, we will grow spiritually. In Romans 12:12, the apostle is calling for not sporadic or occasional activities and attitudes. He is urging the Christian to adopt an unnatural and spiritual approach that comes through a renewed mind that is not conformed to the world around it.

We must be patient. **“Patience”** is listed as an element of the fruit of the Spirit – The Greek word is *hupomene* – which means:

- 1) To bear patiently
- 2) To remain, abide, not recede or flee
- 3) Not simply the ability bear things but the ability to be able to turn greatness into glory

Whereas its synonym *makrothumia* (listed in Gal. 5:22) connotes a patience with difficult people, this word denotes a patience with difficult circumstances.

*Hupomene* is the quality which makes a man able, not simply to suffer things, but to welcome them, and to overcome them. The effect of testing rightly borne is strength to bear still more and to conquer in still harder battles.

Unswerving constancy in the end makes a man three things:

1. It makes him perfect
  - a. How we meet every experience in life makes us either fit or unfit for the task which god has sent us to accomplish.
2. It makes him complete
  - a. Daily in enables us to conquer old sins, to shed old blemishes and to gain new virtues until in the end weaknesses and imperfections in our character are removed.
3. It makes him deficient in nothing
  - a. Handling testing with the proper attitude and daily conquering the old character will enable us to live victoriously and reach the standard of Jesus in our lives.