

James 1:2-8

- 2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,
- 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.
- 4 But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.
- 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.
- 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.
- 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;
- 8 *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his way

Dealing with Trials **James 1:2-8**

INTRO:

Norman Clayton wrote: *“If we could know beyond today as God doth know/ Why dearest treasures pass away and tears must flow/ We know that darkness leads to light and dreary days will soon grow bright/ Someday life’s wrongs will be made right/ faith tells us so.*

If we could see, If we could know we often say/ But God in love a veil doth throw across the way/ We cannot see what lies before and so we cling to Him the more/ He leads us till this life is o’er? Trust and Obey.” This sums up the message of the text before us better than any other piece of music I know. We learn about trials in **James 1:2-8**. We learn we need to go through trials with God’s purpose in mind and using God’s provision in the midst of the trial.

I. Endure Trials Keeping God’s Purpose In Mind *(v.2-4)

II. Endure Trials Using God’s Provision (v. 5-8)

I. Endure Trials Keeping God’s Purpose In Mind *(v.2-4)

James 1:2–4 *“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”*

A. James commands us with no fanfare to consider the trials we fall into as *“all joy.”* He is not telling us that we need to become masochistic. Rather, James commands us when trials come we must see beyond the present trial to what God is ultimately doing through the trial in our lives.

B. There are several important words in these verses. He uses the word ***“fall into various trials.”*** The word is the same one used in **Luke 10:30** to describe how the man fell among thieves in the parable of the Good Samaritan. The word pictures our trial all around us and there is no escape. Another important word is the one translated ***“various.”*** It means ***“multi-colored.”*** The troubles which surround us are of many kinds and types. When troubles come, and they will, we need to respond with a joyous understanding that God is at work.

1 Peter 1:6-7 ***“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, [In order] that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”***

C. Here is why we need to respond to trials looking beyond them to what our loving God is doing through them in us.

v.3 ***“knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”***

The word translated ***“patience”*** is a word used 32 times in the New Testament. It means ***“the capacity to hold out or bear up in the face of difficulty, patience, endurance, fortitude, steadfastness, perseverance.”*** This word is one we need to know and understand as a believer because it is important to our Lord. We find it in **Romans 5:3-4**

“And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

We also find it in **Hebrews 10:35-36**.

“Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.”

D. A reason our Lord prizes ***“endurance, steadfastness, spiritual tenacity”*** so much is because it changes us. It builds our faith and makes us develop, ***“proven character.”*** This is why James wrote:

vs.3-4 ***“the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing”***

God is continually working to conform us into the image of Christ. Some of this shaping involves trials in our lives. As the song says, ***“Some through the waters, some through the flood/ Some through the fire, but all through the blood/ Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song/ In the night season and all the day long.”*** God work looks different in different ones of His children. Yet, God carefully works on each of us.

II. Endure Trials Using God’s Provision (v. 5-8)

James 1:5-8 ***“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed***

by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

A. How can we do this? How can we endure the trials which come our way correctly? We must endure using God’s provision. First we need to pray. We need to pray not that the Lord remove us from the trial but that He provide wisdom to us in going through the trial. In fact, when we recognize we don’t understand what God is doing James commands us to pray for wisdom.

1. Why is it important that we pray and seek wisdom from God? It is important because when we realize that we lack wisdom, seeking it from God is usually the last thing we do. We seek counsel from people first. Oftentimes we even seek counsel from the world before we are prone to come to the Lord. Don’t let trials drive us away from God. When trials come run to God.

2. James encourages us to come to the Lord by reminding us of God’s character. Our God is a giving God Who will readily help us find the wisdom we need. He does not upbraid us. Instead, He gives things to us with a single motive. Our Lord desires only what is best for us! Finally, we are commanded to seek this wisdom from God because we have a promise that we will receive the wisdom we seek. ***“And it will be given to him.”*** Maybe not immediately. But it will come. God does not leave us alone in the valley of the shadow of death. He is right there with us to help us through.

B. We find in **verse 6** another imperative. That person who is praying for wisdom, must ask in faith. This means we can’t come demanding that God change our circumstances. Rather we are willing to accept the circumstances and want to learn the lessons God teaches us in trouble.

C. We must ask in faith and we must not doubt. The word doubt means ***“to hesitate between two options”*** or ***“to be in doubt.”*** The grammar implies it was a habitual struggle rooted in conflicting desires. This is not so much worrying God will not answer our prayer, as much as doubting whether we want God making the choices in our lives. We need to choose between the true and living God and the god of this present world. When you pray for wisdom, before you hit your knees you settle once and for all who is going to call the shots in your life! Don’t go to God asking for wisdom with the idea that you will take what He tells you under advisement. Faith stakes its claim on the character of God.

D. David prayed in **Psalm 86:11** ***“Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.”***

This is the attitude James endorses for us.

E. James closes his discussion with a warning.

“For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord. He is a double minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

Hymn #494 ***Like A River Glorious***