

“Choosing Joy in Trials”

James 1:2-4

Knowing the benefits of trials enables the exercise of Joy.

I. James calls believers to choose joy in the midst of trials:

James 1:2— “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,”

A. Joy is a command that believers are to obey.

1. The essence of this phrase is to choose a joyful attitude in your trials.
2. It is not a suggestion or an alternative option. It is a divine command to be obeyed.

B. Definitions:

1. **“trials”** – that which breaks the pattern of tranquility or happiness.
2. **“various”** – also “many colored”; means diversity of trouble that can come our way.
3. **Question:** What kind of trial are we currently going through?

II. Why is there a call for Joy?

James 1:3 “knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.”

A. A believer should know that trials will produce a faith that endures: Why is this important? Can we opt out of endurance?

1. No one is exempt from trials (good or evil). -**John 16:33**
2. Trials burn up imitation faith, temp faith, and false faith. – **Matthew 13:20–21**
3. But true faith is strengthened by trials. - “knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.”

III. Enduring faith is God’s goal for every Christian.

James 1:4 “And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be **perfect and complete**, lacking in nothing.”

A. Endurance makes our faith perfect. (to be brought through a complete process)

B. Endurance makes our faith complete. (to be brought to wholeness with none of its parts missing)

1. **Trials test the strength of our faith -v3.** (It is for our benefit to know) **Luke 22:31–32** — ³¹ “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; ³² but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.””
2. **Trials produce humility in the believer. - James 4:6** “... God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.””
3. **Trials wean us from trusting in material abundance. -Phil. 4:12** — ¹² I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.”
4. **Trials increase our anticipation for Heaven. - Romanos 8:18** — ¹⁸ Pues considero que los sufrimientos de este tiempo presente no son dignos de ser comparados con la gloria que nos ha de ser revelada.”
5. **Trials reveal what we really love. - Deuteronomy 13:3** — ³ ...for the Lord your God is testing you to find out if you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”
6. **Trials enable us to help others in their suffering. - 2 Corinthians 1:4** — ⁴ God comforts us in all 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.”

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