

TURNING TRIALS INTO TRIUMPHS.

4/19/2026 AM

INTRODUCTION:

A. Read text: James 1:1-12.

B. Regarding the text:

1. Perhaps you have heard, "When life hands you lemons, make lemonade."
 - 1) A positive thought -- But to do so can be difficult!
 - 2) In fact, sometimes it seems an impossible task.
2. Yet, the bible is filled with examples of those who did.
 - 1) Daniel, Jeremiah, David, Paul, etc.
 - 2) It is not, "Will we be tested, BUT how will we handle them."

C. James tells us how to win over trials.

1. Faith is our weapon ("Faith Is The Victory We Know...").
2. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had faith stronger than the threat of a furnace (**Daniel 3:15-17**).

D. The key victory is found in FOUR imperatives.

1. Count – **1:2**; Know – **1:3**; Let – **1:4**; Ask – **1:5-8**.

DISCUSSION: LET US OBSERVE FROM THESE VERSES...

I. VERSE 2: "COUNT IT ALL JOY WHEN YE FALL INTO DIVERS TEMPTATIONS."

A. Notice it is not "IF" but "WHEN." The reality.

1. So, we must expect our faith to be tested.
 - 1) Jesus said so. **John 16:33** "...In the world ye shall have tribulation..."
 - 2) Paul also. **Acts 14:22** "...exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."
2. This testing will take various forms. Satan knows where I am weak.

B. How should we respond to these tests?

1. "COUNT IT ALL JOY." How can this be?
2. It is not that we enjoy these tests of faith.
 - 1) **Acts 5:41** "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name."
 - 2) **Rom. 5:3** "...we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;"
3. WE overcome by developing a "faith that will not shrink, though pressed by every foe..."

II. VERSE 3: "KNOWING THIS, THAT THE TRYING OF YOUR FAITH WORKETH PATIENCE."

A. Understanding the value of trials makes it possible to have the right attitude about them.

1. KNOW that when we overcome temptations, we are made stronger.
 - 1) **2 Cor. 4:8-9**.
 - 2) **2 Cor. 4:17** "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."
2. A tested faith produces "PATIENCE."
 - 1) **Rom 5:3-5** "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love

of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”

- 2) Patience = the ability to be steadfast in the face of great difficulties.

III. VERSE 4: “BUT LET PATIENCE HAVE HER PERFECT WORK.”

A. To turn trials into victory, we must have “PATIENCE.”

1. Sometimes we want the difficulty over with NOW!
2. But being steadfast in the difficulty makes us stronger.

B. Patience produces maturity (perfect and entire).

1. Perfect = mature and grown.
2. Just as babies grow and mature, so does the Christian. Not overnight, and not without difficulties.
 - 1) **1 Pet 2:2** “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”
 - 2) **2 Pet 3:18** “But grow **in grace**, and **in the knowledge** of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever.”
3. Maturity in the faith comes from spiritual growth. This is accomplished through wisdom.

IV. VERSE 8: “LET HIM ASK OF GOD.”

A. If we lack wisdom, ask for it from God. Solomon **1 Kings 3:7-12**.

B. What exactly is wisdom?

1. Difference between wisdom & knowledge.
 - 1) Knowledge is information based on facts.
 - 2) Wisdom is the ability to use the information properly.
2. Knowledge is obtained through the word of God (**Psalm 119:104** “Through thy precepts I get understanding...” Study **2 Tim. 2:15**).
3. Wisdom is gained by prayer and experience.
 - 1) **James 1:5** “... let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”
 - 2) **Ephesians 1:17** “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom...”

C. The wisdom to use difficulties to our advantage comes by “PROPER” prayer.

1. **James 1:6** “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.”
 - 1) Pray just like you KNOW God will bring you through the difficulty.
 - 2) Fervent prayer: **James 5:16** “...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

V. CONCLUSION:

A. Difficulties can be a curse or a blessing, depending on how we use them.

B. It is hard, but strength comes from exercise. Heb. 12: 11 “Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”