

James 1 - Understanding Your Trials

June 29, 2017

James 1:1-4 NASB

1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

2 **Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,**

3 **knowing that the testing of your faith produces** (*katargazomai - to accomplish, achieve, work out, work fully*) **endurance** (*hypomonē - steadfastness, constancy, patient enduring, patience*).

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

The perfect work of patient endurance is two-fold:

1. **Keeps us submissive to God through the trial, allowing the trial to work in us all that God desires.**

1 Peter 5:10 NASB

10 *After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself PERFECT* (*katartizo - to render fit, sound, complete, strengthen, mend, repair*), *CONFIRM* (*sterizo - make stable, set fast, render constant*), *STRENGTHEN* (*sthenoo - make strong*) and *ESTABLISH* (*themelioo - lay the foundation, to ground, settle*) you.

2 Corinthians 4:17 NASB

17 *For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.*

Psalms 119:67 NASB

67 *Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.*

Psalms 119:71 NASB

71 *It is good for me that I was afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.*

2. **Keeps us faithful to the end of the life-long journey of pursuing God by faith.**

"The essential thing "in heaven and earth" is...that there should be long obedience in the same direction; there thereby results, and has always resulted in the long run, something which has made life worth living." Friedrich Nietzsche, "Beyond Good and Evil"

2 Thessalonians 3:5 KJV

5 *And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.*

Matthew 24:10-13 NASB

10 *"At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.*

11 *"Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.*

12 *"Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.*

13 *"But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.*

Hebrews 3:14 NASB

14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end.

Hebrews 10:38 NASB

38 But my righteous one shall live by faith; and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 NASB

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Hebrews 10:35 NASB

35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

James 1:5-8 NASB

5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

8 being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

The wisdom which God gives in trials is two-fold:

1. ***When we don't know what to do.***
2. ***When we don't understand why.***

Isaiah 30:1-3 NASB

1 "Woe to the rebellious children," declares the LORD, "Who execute a plan, but not Mine, And make an alliance, but not of My Spirit, In order to add sin to sin;

2 Who proceed down to Egypt Without consulting Me, To take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh And to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt!

3 "Therefore the safety of Pharaoh will be your shame And the shelter in the shadow of Egypt, your humiliation.

Isaiah 30:19-21 NASB

19 O people in Zion, inhabitant in Jerusalem, you will weep no longer. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.

20 Although the Lord has given you bread of privation and water of oppression, He, your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will behold your Teacher.

21 Your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left.

Jeremiah 33:3 NASB

3 'Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'