

James 1 - When You Want to Quit Pt.1

September 28, 2014 AM

James 1:1-4

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

2 **Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,**

3 for you know that **the TESTING of your faith produces STEADFASTNESS.**

4 And **let steadfastness have its FULL EFFECT, that you may be perfect (teleios) and COMPLETE, lacking in nothing.**

- **testing** (*dokimion*) testing what is genuine, what is found approved
- **steadfastness** (*hypomone*) constancy, endurance, patience, not swerved from deliberate purpose or loyalty to faith
- **full effect** (*teleios*) complete in all parts, complete Christian character, going through the necessary stages to reach the end-goal of maturity, fulfilling the necessary process, reaching the end
- **complete** (*holokleros*) complete in every part, sound, perfect, entire

TRIALS PRODUCE 3 QUALITIES:

1. STEADFASTNESS

The ability, which can only be cultivated in the heat and intensity of trials, to not swerve from deliberate purpose or loyalty to faith. Three things in life can cause us to swerve: [1] the pain & fatigue of trials [2] the enticement of sin & worldly pleasure [3] the guilt of failure.

2. GODLY CHARACTER

Qualities of Christlikeness which are developed by repeated trials exercising our decisions, actions and reactions.

3. PROVEN GENUINENESS OF FAITH

Faith which never quits, no matter what the trial or circumstance, is faith which is proven to be genuine. The present suffering is well worth the eternal rewards.

THE NEED FOR STEADFASTNESS (*refusing to swerve from the deliberate purpose or loyalty to the faith*):

1. THE PAIN & FATIGUE OF TRIALS
2. THE ENTICEMENT OF SIN & WORLDLY PLEASURE
3. THE GUILT OF FAILURE

PAIN & FATIGUE

Lamentations 3:1-26

- 1 I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath;
- 2 he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light;
- 3 surely against me he turns his hand again and again the whole day long.
- 4 He has made my flesh and my skin waste away; he has broken my bones;
- 5 he has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation;
- 6 he has made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long ago.
- 7 He has walled me about so that I cannot escape; he has made my chains heavy;
- 8 though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer;
- 9 he has blocked my ways with blocks of stones; he has made my paths crooked.
- 10 He is a bear lying in wait for me, a lion in hiding;
- 11 he turned aside my steps and tore me to pieces; he has made me desolate;
- 12 he bent his bow and set me as a target for his arrow.
- 13 He drove into my kidneys the arrows of his quiver;
- 14 I have become the laughingstock of all peoples, the object of their taunts all day long.
- 15 He has filled me with bitterness; he has sated me with wormwood.
- 16 He has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes;
- 17 my soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is;
- 18 so I say, "**MY ENDURANCE HAS PERISHED; SO HAS MY HOPE FROM THE LORD.**"
- 19 Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall!
- 20 My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me.

ENTICEMENT OF SIN & WORLDLY PLEASURE

1 Corinthians 10:5-8

- 5 **Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.**
- 6 **Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.**
- 7 **Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play."**
- 8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.

Numbers 11:1-6

- 1 And **the people complained** in the hearing of the Lord about their misfortunes, and when the Lord heard it, **his anger was kindled**, and **the fire of the Lord burned among them** and consumed some outlying parts of the camp.
- 2 Then the people cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the Lord, and the fire died down.
- 3 So the name of that place was called Taberah, because the fire of the Lord burned among them.

4 **Now the rabble that was among them had a strong craving.** And the people of Israel also wept again and said, "Oh that we had meat to eat!

5 **WE REMEMBER the fish we ate IN EGYPT that COST NOTHING, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic.**

6 But now our strength is dried up, and **there is NOTHING AT ALL but this manna to look at.**"

Psalms 73:3-7

3 For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

4 For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek.

5 They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.

6 Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment.

7 Their eyes swell out through fatness; their hearts overflow with follies.

GUILT OF FAILURE

Matthew 27:3-5

3 Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders,

4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." They said, "**What is that to us? See to it yourself.**"

5 And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and **he went and hanged himself.**

2 Samuel 12:15-23

15 Then Nathan went to his house.

16 David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground.

17 And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground, but he would not, nor did he eat food with them.

18 On the seventh day the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, "Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us. How then can we say to him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm."

19 But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, David understood that the child was dead. And David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead."

20 **Then David arose from the earth and washed and anointed himself and changed his clothes. And he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. He then went to his own house. And when he asked, they set food before him, and he ate.**

21 Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food."

22 He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who knows whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?'

23 **But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."**

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