

Lessons For The Church

Lessons For You!

Reference: **James 1:1-8**

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Trials from without and temptations from within are no match for a Christian who stands in the truth from above.

I. THE CONTENTMENT OF JOY – vs. 1-3

A. Joy is a choice.

1. Joy is not allowing ourselves to drift through life experiences. All this does is put us at the mercy of our experiences and the interactions and activities of others.
2. Joy is not pretending to be happy. All this is, is a pretending – a putting up of a good front, no matter what the circumstances.
3. Pure joy is a calculated response to trials.
 - a. They are natural outcome of the adversarial behavior of the hostile world toward God's people.
 - b. They are designed tools in the hands of a sovereign God Who employs them to refine faith, enhance godly fellowship, and augment the Christian journey.

Reference: **John 15:18-20; 1 Peter 1:6-9**

B. Faith is tested.

1. There is no doubt about the testing of our faith.
2. The question is, “How do we respond to this testing?” The answer is found in another word; “consider.”
3. James is saying (with authority), “Hey chalk this up.” Trials are meant to be faced with joy. Not joy **for** the trial; but, joy **in** the trial.
4. Trials are not things we bring on ourselves.

KEY THOUGHT:

Rejoice in the trials that we face,
not letting them destroy what will come out of them.

II. THE COURSE OF PERSEVERANCE – vs. 3-4

A. Faith develops perseverance.

1. James tells us that this is something we already know.
2. James is now asking us to understand and appreciate the spiritual significance trials have in our lives.
3. James expects us to weather the trials we face.
 - a. He uses the word “testing.”
 - b. It is a word that has a positive meaning.
 - c. So, the real meaning of “testing” is trustworthiness, or proved.
 - d. It is the same word we read earlier in -
Reference: **1 Peter 1:7**
 - e. The word also carries with it the meaning of value – A value of our faith is that it has the ability to carry us through the trials that we fall into.
4. Perseverance perfects our walk.
 - a. The words “finish” and “mature” are the same Greek word.
 - b. A perfect walk has three parts:
 - i. A perfect walk permits me to be mature.
 - ii. A perfect walk permits me to be complete.
 - iii. A perfect walk permits me to lack nothing.

KEY THOUGHT:

We are expected to weather our trials,
and in the process of weathering them,
we grow in our Christian maturity, experience, and faithfulness.

III. THE CONFIDENCE OF REQUEST – vs. 5-8

A. God’s Assistance in Our Need

1. The word “if” really means “since.”
2. We need to ask God for wisdom.

Reference: **James 1:5** (AMP)

- a. God’s wisdom is practical.
- b. God’s wisdom is divine.
- c. God’s wisdom is Christ-like.

References: **1 Corinthians 1:24; 2:1-7**

B. Our Responsibility with God’s Generosity

1. We must believe God when He gives us the wisdom we asked for!
2. We must be careful that we do not doubt. To doubt means to hesitate, withdraw, or vacillate.

C. The Danger of Doubt

1. They are destructive.
2. They have a negative effect on us horizontally.
3. They have a negative effect on us vertically.
4. We lack focus.
5. We become unstable like a staggering drunk.
6. God’s wisdom is of no profit to someone who doubts.

KEY THOUGHT:

God will respond to our need for wisdom in the face of trials. Our danger is that we will not receive His wisdom with the faith it deserves.