

Before we begin our study in James this morning, I want you to consider something about the trying of your faith:

You don't have to be in difficult circumstances, adversity, or in a sore trial for your faith to be tried. THE TRUTH IS... your faith in Christ is always being tried and proved. Not only in the stormy tempests and difficult adversities of life, but also, on calm days when there aren't any urgent reasons to trust the Lord.

When everything is going well, and you begin to be self-sufficient rather than God dependent, you are on dangerous ground. Times of quietness and calm also require faith! You must walk by faith, even when you don't think you need to... Hebrews 11:6

Beloved, there ought to always be an urgency in our hearts to seek the Lord, especially when everything is going well, and calm. Do you have less need of God on a calm, quiet day? It is in those calm, good days that we are most prone to forget our Lord and to cast aside our faith!

Deuteronomy 8:11-18: How often do we forget our faith?

If you're not walking by faith in Christ every day, on quiet days, it's going to be very difficult for you to just crank up your faith when you suddenly find yourself in the middle of a spiritual storm.

As we pick up our study in (V12), I think James is concluding his teaching on the trying of your faith:

Remember he taught us that we are to "Count it all joy when ye fall into divers' temptations", KNOWING that the trying of your faith is God's design to produce perseverance and patient continuance IN YOU, to hold on your way!

Christian, God means to activate your faith, and He will never cease to train/discipline you to live by faith in Him.

Remember faith untested becomes inactive weak faith. But not to worry, if God has given you faith, God will try and test your faith.

Psalms 11:5: "The LORD trieth the righteous".

Proverbs 17:3: "The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts."

NOW, after letting patience have her perfect work in your life, James teaches us about the happiness of those WHO HAVE ENDURED; and the blessedness of those who have PERSEVERED victoriously through the trials of their faith, WHO ARE NOW APPROVED.

The word "tried" in James 1:12 means "proved and approved" through testing, and found out to be authentic, genuine. In easy-to-understand language, you passed the test!

The word "experience" in Romans 5:3-4 is very close to meaning the same thing, the Greek words are very similar. Remember this, that experience is produced through trials! God discovers proof of genuine faith in you through your trials.

Every one of us, who have been saved for some time, ought to be growing and maturing spiritually, becoming more experienced in our walk of faith, KNOWING... that when God tries your faith, He is weaning you from this world and conforming you to Himself, He is sanctifying you, training and preparing you for heaven, your eternal home. This is why we can count it all joy when trials come!

And so, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation.", who remains constant and steadfast in his faith in Christ under trials and adversities!

Happy and Fortunate is every believer in Christ who has victoriously "held on their way", persevered, and patiently endured through the spiritual battles of this earthly life!

In James 5:11: "Behold we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job and have seen the end of the Lord: (or God's purpose and design in all of Job's trials), that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy."

This blessedness, (or happiness) is what we, as children of God ought to be experiencing in our hearts... YES, even when we are NOT in happy circumstances! How can I do this? By faith, and by never ceasing to look past this life to your eternal future!

Remember the words of King Solomon: "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof, and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit." Psalm 37:37, 1 Peter 1:13

What James is teaching us is that trials will continue in this life, the trying of your faith will not cease... but if you're a child of God, you will endure and persevere through all of them.

And when you do finish your course and at last open your eyes in heaven, in the presence of Christ, ONLY THEN will you know the "disproportionate blessing" of eternal life, over every earthly trial that you endured. 2 Corinthians 4:17, 1 Peter 1:3-9

I've heard Christians say, I want to finish strong; I've even said that, and I do understand that saying... BUT NOW, I would rather say, I want "Finishing Grace" or "Grace from God, to Finish my Course".

For all who do endure, "The Crown of Life" is promised, and right here at the end of (V12), James provides us with that which strengthens our faith and resolve to continue to the end: "Love to Christ".

Christian, the strongest reason for you to continue to endure to the end IS BECAUSE you love Christ! It is NOT

the crown which you seek, but instead, you want to see the face of that Man who wore the crown of thorns on His head, whose lovely face was beaten, bloodied, and spit upon... it is THAT MAN, the Son of Man, the Lord Jesus Christ, whom you seek, and whom you love.

And though you may not think of seeking a crown, James teaches us that you will be crowned victoriously on that day, (It is the Crown of Victory and of Eternal Life...and you, like every other saint of God will receive it on that day.

This crown is only for the victorious righteous, for those who traversed through this life of difficulty and suffering by faith in Christ! For those who are overcomers! This is YOU, child of God.

And when you do behold your Lord in heaven, exalted, on His throne, you, (like the four and twenty elders) will cast your crowns at His feet.

Revelation 4:10-11, 2 Timothy 4:6-8

Blessed are all God's people, who endure and persevere through every spiritual battle of this life, you, child of God, are one of God's Blessed Overcomers! 1 John 5:4-5, Revelation 3:21, 12:10-11

To the lost, what will you do with Jesus Christ? If you're not saved, you're in a very dangerous place. Enmity, Enemy, Estranged from God. John 3:36, Romans 5:8-11.