



Lesson 2: Happy Troubles (James 1:2-12)

James is the half-brother of the Savior and the pastor of the church of Jerusalem. He rights 5 chapters all in the voice of the command. The book is filled with _____ different commands! The first of these commands comes in chapter 1:2. James waves any formal introduction and moves right to the point. *“Count it all joy when you fall into diverse temptation.”* The Spirit of God moves in the life of James and provides us with an extremely important message. Job 5:7 tells us that *“man is born for trouble just as surely as the sparks fly upward.”* The first 12 verses of this book are written so that we might take full advantage of adversities. Verse 12 ends with the wonderful beatitude of the buffeted, *“Blessed is the man who _____: for when he is _____, he shall receive the crown of life.”*

Because God allows trials into your life you must be aware of their importance in producing godly character. Here in this text we see three keys to allow the Christians to turn their trials into treasures.

YOU MUST ENDURE TRIALS _____ (v. 1-2)

The very thought of troubles doesn't bring up thoughts of joy, but dread. What is James trying to teach us about living through difficult days?

- A. Joy can only come when you cling to you _____
James calls the converted among the 12 tribes his “_____.” 17x James will use this same expression in the book. James shows a true brotherly sympathy with believers in their trials, and this is a main part of Christian fellowship. All Christians have a unique and special relationship as brothers and sisters within the _____ of God.
- B. Joy can only come when you carefully _____
“Count it all joy.” The Word “count” means to “_____” or “evaluate” or “give special _____ to.” Many times it is precisely because we give our trials no thought that we find ourselves in the midst of them. Right knowledge of trials makes it possible to rejoice in them.

YOU MUST ENDURE TRIALS _____ (v. 3-4)

James is saying that the testing of faith drives believers to deeper communion and greater trust in Christ – qualities that in turn produce stable, godly, and righteous character.

- “Perfect” – there is a finished product that God sees _____ you see it.
- “Entire” – there is a wholeness and balance.
- “Wanting nothing” – there is no _____ when it is done.

The goal of tribulation is to mold the Christian to be a more useful vessel for the Lord's work. Verse 4 says to “let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect.” This does not mean absolute perfection, as though the believer would never sin. In this verse the meaning of patience (or more specifically “perfect work”) is spiritual maturity. James is saying that the perfect Christian on earth is the one who starts out doing what God would have him to do and _____ on _____ it until the end.

YOU MUST ENDURE TRIALS _____ (v. 5-8)

It's hard to suffer in silence and God does not want us to suffer in silence. He invites us to pray!

- A. In the midst of trials learn to pray _____ (v. 5)
Seek out wisdom. Purposefully pursue a practical understanding of life. This wisdom is at a premium during trials.
- B. In the midst of trials learn to pray _____ (v. 6-8)
Have you persistently pleaded with your heavenly father? Stay on the line! Don't hang up! A praying believer asks for wisdom of God. He seeks God and he asks God, never doubting the nature of God, never doubting the love of God, never doubting the fatherhood of God, never doubting that God is his Savior, that God is his guardian, that God is his supply and his provider, never doubting that! He pleads with God.

It is through faith that we seize the ultimate goal. Your trials will yield a wonderful crown from the hand that is pierced for you.

“Blessed is the man that endureth _____: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord _____ to them that love Him.” (James 1:12)