

God's Grace in Trials & Temptations

James 1:1-4

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¹James, 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 endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

God's Grace in Trials & Temptations

What we know about God's gracious design for our suffering enables us to meet trials and temptations with the radical response of authentic joy.

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Why should we consider every kind of trial and temptation to be an occasion for joy?

James 1:1

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

James 1:2

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

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

To “Consider” means to esteem it, count it, or recognize it as...

It describes that which goes before and leads the way or influences.

“Lead/ Influence your thinking with the conclusion that it is all joy”

Philippians 2:3

³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility **consider** one another as more important than yourselves

It is not natural to esteem others as better than ourselves... therefore:

Lead/ Influence your thinking with the conclusion that others are more important"

Philippians 2:5-6

⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, as He already existed in the form of God, **did not consider** equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant

It would have been natural for Jesus to hold onto His divine status, but instead, he chose to consider Himself a servant.

Jesus' leading and influential thought was to count Himself as a servant for our sake.

James 1:2

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James 1:2

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

It is not the trial or temptation itself that is all joy...

It is not a dismissal of the godly and appropriate grief that accompanies trials...

It is the occasion in which we face trials and temptations that we consider all joy

“Trials” (peirasmos): trial, temptation, adversity, testing,

Refers to a trial of man’s fidelity, integrity, and constancy...

It describes things that put a person to the test.

They may be difficulties that come from without, such as hardships, loss, persecution, etc....

Or they may be inner moral tests, such as temptation to sin or doubt

James 1:2

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

“All joy” or “pure joy” means complete/full joy...

Joy that is not superficial or disingenuous...

Not as shallow as fun, and not to be confused with happiness...

It is real, authentic joy that is possible even in the face of trials and temptations...

Christian Joy:

“A Favorable disposition and contentment of soul that results from the recognition of God’s grace in all circumstances – including trials and temptations.”

Why should we consider every kind of trial and temptation to be an occasion for joy?

³ **knowing** that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

Why should we consider every kind of trial and temptation to be an occasion for joy?

- Because trials and temptations prove our faith to be genuine (vs 3)

³ knowing that the **testing of your faith** produces endurance.

1 Peter 1:6-7

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, ⁷ so that **the proof of your faith**, being more precious than gold which perishes though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ

Like precious gold, it is necessary that our faith be put to grief in order that it's proven genuineness may become apparent.

Why should we consider every kind of trial and temptation to be an occasion for joy?

- Because trials and temptations prove our faith to be genuine (vs 3)
- Because the trials and temptations that prove our faith produce endurance (vs 3)

³ knowing that the testing of your faith **produces endurance.**

The Lord initiates and births faith in the believer (Eph 2:8-9, 2 Cor 4:6)

The Lord proves that faith to be genuine through trials and temptations
(1 Peter 1:7, James 1:3)...

The faith that is given by God and proven by God results in perseverance (James 1:3)

Saving faith, proven faith, & enduring faith are all from God

Why should we consider every kind of trial and temptation to be an occasion for joy?

- Because trials and temptations prove our faith to be genuine (vs 3)
- Because the trials and temptations that prove our faith produce endurance (vs 3)
- Because through trials and temptations, God is accomplishing our sanctification and future glory (vs 4)

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

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