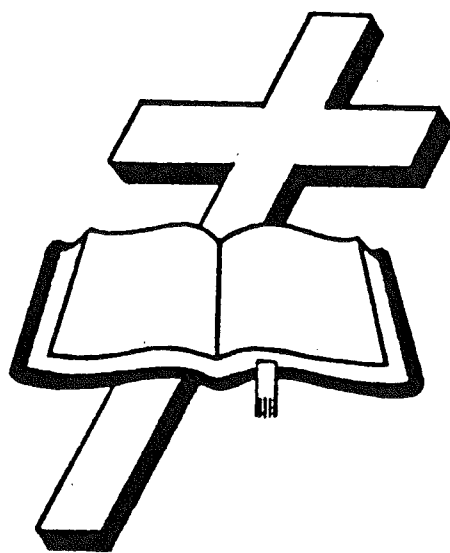


VICTORIOUS IN TRIAL

(The Reward Of Testing For Those Submitted To God)
James 1:1-12



GAIN FROM PAIN

- ◆ Patience
- ◆ Maturity
- ◆ Wholeness
- ◆ Contentment
- ◆ Wisdom

“Knowing this, that the trying of your faith produces patience” (James 1:3)

Bill Kirk

“VICTORS (NOT VICTIMS) IN TRIAL”

Text: James 1:1-12

Subject: How To Use Your **Pain** for **Gain** in Christian living.

Introduction

Fact: James was the half brother of Jesus and the leader of the Jerusalem church.

Fact: James is writing to believers who are being tested and tried in their faith.

Fact: James is given supernatural insight in how to face difficulty and come out a stronger person.

Fact: James reveals to us (just maybe) the most encouraging word in all of Scripture regarding the times

when we are tested and tried.

Question: Are testings a part of this life for all believers?

Answer: “My brethren, count it all joy **when** you meet various trials”. (v. 2)

- ◆ “Many are the afflictions of the righteous” (Psalm 34:19)
- ◆ “Man is short lived and full of turmoil” (Job 14:1)
- ◆ “We must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God. (Acts 14:22)

Pain Is Common To All:

- | | | | |
|------------------|------------|--------------|--------------------|
| ◆ Disappointment | ◆ Sickness | ◆ Grief | ◆ Slander |
| ◆ Hurt | ◆ Betrayal | ◆ Separation | ◆ Misunderstanding |
| ◆ Loss | ◆ Death | ◆ Rejection | ◆ Loneliness |

Question: Why does God allow His people to be tested?

Answer: The Greek word for trials in James is (PEIRASMOS) which means 3 things:

1. To try
2. To test
3. To prove

(In Other Words)

◆ Trials of life are permitted (and used by God) for an ultimate beneficial purpose:

1. To try our character
2. To test our patience
3. To prove our loyalty
4. To make us stronger

Question: What is the spiritual attitude God is after when we are tested?

Answer: “Count it all **joy**” (v. 2)

Question: How is it possible to have a deep joy in the midst of adversity?

Answer: By understanding the end result of our experience (if we cooperate with God).

Question: What is the end result of testing and adversity for the spiritually minded believer?

5 Rewards Of Trial

Reward #1: Patience

“Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh (produces) **patience**” (v. 3)

Fact: Trials are not to sour us (but to strengthen us).

Fact: Trials are not to offend us (but to mature us).

Fact: Trials are not to scare us (but to patience us).

Question: What is patience?

Answer: The Greek work for patience here is (HUPOMONEN) (Which means:)

- ◆ To endure and persevere under adversity.
- ◆ To suffer long under difficulty.
- ◆ To bear up with difficult people or pressure.
- ◆ To remain steadfast under stress and strain.
- ◆ To hold steady regardless, for the benefit it will bring to another.

Question: What is the immature thing to do when tested?

Answer: Run from difficulty, blame someone else for your trouble, get angry at God, etc.

Question: What does God say to do?

Answer: "Let **patience** have her perfect work" (v. 4) which means:

- ◆ Don't run from difficulty, but remain steadfast under the all seeing eye of God!

Reward #2: Maturity

"...That you may be **perfect**" (V. 4)

Fact: The Greek word for "perfect" here is (TELEIOS) which means: Maturity of character.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ God wants to grow us through our difficulties.
- ◆ God wants to strengthen us through our difficulties.
- ◆ God wants to mold us through our difficulties.
- ◆ God wants to deepen us through our difficulties.
- ◆ God wants to apprehend us through our difficulties.

(What A Discovery Here)

- ◆ That God is more concerned about our **character** than our **convenience**.
- ◆ That God is (through our patient endurance) growing a steadfast spirit that can be trusted when the chips are down.

Fact: If you help a chicken out of the egg (you'll kill it).

Fact: If you help a locust out of the shell (you'll kill it).

Fact: If you help a caterpillar out of the cocoon (you'll kill it).

* They all must go through the struggle to be what God intended them to be.

Reward #3: Wholeness

"That you may be perfect and **entire**" (v. 4)

Fact: The Greek word for "entire" is (HOLOKLEROS) which means: "complete and whole".

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The more a person is patient under trial, the more fit, sound, complete and whole they become

(And)

- ◆ The more a person is patient under trial, the more flaws, defects and weaknesses are eliminated.

(Remember)

- ◆ This is why people who run from difficulty when they don't get what they want (stay immature and fail to get what they need.)

(All Because)

- ◆ They failed to let God address the deeper issues of the heart that allowed them to run in the first place.

(God's Will Is This:)

- ◆ "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro...but might grow up into Him in all things" (Ephesians 4:14,15)

Reward #4: Contentment

"That you may be perfect, entire, **wanting nothing**" (v. 4)

Fact: The Greek words for "wanting nothing" are (LEIPO MEDEN) and mean: "No lack of anything; contentment".

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The believer who is patient in trial is the person who wants for nothing.
- ◆ He triumphs in the midst of adversity because God gives him a contented spirit. **(Why)?**
- ◆ Because, instead of running, he draws upon the grace of God and finds that grace sufficient to be enough to satisfy!

(Remember)

- ◆ If I'm not content with what I have, I'll not be content with what I want!

"Not that I speak in respect of want, for I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Philippians 4:11)

Reward #5: Wisdom

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not and it shall be given him" (v. 5)

Question: What is wisdom here?

Answer: It is the ability from God to know what to do and how to apply God's truth when in adversity!!

Question: Why pray and ask God for wisdom? **(Because...)**

- #1. Wisdom enables you to handle difficulty.
- #2. Wisdom conquers temptations to escape and run.
- #3. Wisdom sees the eternal side of things.
- #4. Wisdom gains ground instead of losing ground.
- #5. Wisdom knows that patience prevails over impulsiveness.
- #6. Wisdom believes that God's grace will sustain.
- #7. Wisdom accepts God's truth that faith is tested so that it might be trusted.

Question: How do we pray for wisdom?

Answer: "Ask in faith, nothing wavering" (v. 6)

Question: What is promised to those who handle their problems correctly? (v. 12)

#1. **Real Happiness**

"Blessed (genuinely happy) is the believer who perseveres under trial" (v. 12)

#2. **Real Living**

"For once you have been approved, you will receive the crown of life" (v. 12)

Fact: God cannot build our character without our cooperation. If we resist Him, then He chastens us into submission. But, if we submit to Him, then He can accomplish His work.

(In James 1:9-11), we see the cooperation of two different kinds of Christians, the rich and the poor).

- ◆ Apparently, money and social status were problems among the believers. (2:1-7, 15 & 16; 4:1-3, 13-17; 5:1-8)
- ◆ James reveals that God's testings have a way of leveling us all:
- ◆ When testing comes to the poor man, he lets God have His way and rejoices that he has spiritual riches that cannot be taken from him.
- ◆ When testing comes to the rich man, he also lets God have His way, and rejoices that his riches in Christ cannot wither or fade away.
- ◆ In other words, it is not your material resources that enable you through life's battles, but it is your spiritual resources in Christ!

The Fruit Of Impatience

- #1. Abraham ran ahead of God, married Hagar, and brought great sorrow to his home. (Genesis 16)
- #2. Moses ran ahead of God, murdered a man, and had to spend 40 years with sheep to learn patience. (Exodus 2)
- #3. Peter injured a man in his impatience and anger. (John 18:10 & 11)

The Fruit Of Patience

- #1. Patience is the fruit of the spiritually wise saint that is developed over time through experience.
- #2. Patience will keep us from running from the very things God wants to use to mature us.
- #3. Patience will allow you to be rewarded in prayer as you wait on the Lord (in perseverance and faith) for answers to arrive.

(Slow Down)

"Hurry is not of the devil, it is the devil" (Karl Jung)

Conclusion

(The great rewards of adversity when we cooperate with God and live in total submission to Him are:

- #1. **Patience** (That fruit of character which keeps you steadfast)
- #2. **Maturity** (That growth which makes you strong and dependable)
- #3. **Wholeness** (That healthy attitude that is sweet and contagious)
- #4. **Contentment** (That result of drawing upon the grace of God)
- #5. **Wisdom** (That heavenly insight which applies God's truth in practical Christian living)

AMEN!
Bill Kirk, Pastor

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