

Trials and Difficulties Lead to Spiritual Maturity

James 1:1-6

1. James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.....”2. Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, 3. because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance (perseverance). 4. And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing. 5. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. 6. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.”

James helps us to understand and reminds us that all goodness comes from God. That should be our focus in trials.

- When persecuted we should look beyond the pain of the moment to remember God’s love for us, and those who persecute us should see that love and hope in our conduct under pressure.
- When facing temptation, we should remember the promises of God are better than the passing pleasures of sin.
- When facing personal tragedy or challenges, we should lean on the goodness of our God and our fellow Christians to help carry us past the pain and back to our hope in Christ.

Problems are _____

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Problems are _____

What does James mean by testing of your faith makes you Mature and Complete?

What do verses 3 & 4 reveal about finding Joy as we encounter problems?

**James says there are three (3) responses to problems: Rejoice, Pray, and Relax
(Which response is the most difficult for you as you face problems?)**

In Verse 5, how does James encourage us? How can this help us when we face difficulties?

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.”

II Corinthians 1:3-7