

Perfecting Perseverance

A bible study during the COVID-19 crisis in which we learn the spiritual value of a trial.

Romans 5:3-5, James 1:2-4

Intro – James 1:2-4

James instructs us to “Count it all joy” when we fall into divers temptations.

Count it all joy = The word translated “count” is a financial term that means to evaluate.

Joy = Speaks of delight, positive things, good things

Divers = Different, various

Temptations = Trials, testing,

James is telling us to evaluate our trials and assign them a positive value.

Paul tells us in **Romans 5:3** to “Glory in tribulation”

Which begs the question, How am I to do that?

Consider

Our values determine our evaluations. If we live by spiritual values, we will make spiritual evaluations. If we live by biblical values, we will make biblical evaluations.

We could ask, Do we value:

Comfort or character?

The material or the spiritual?

The temporary or the eternal?

The present or the future?

When trials come, I am to perform a spiritual accounting and count it all joy.

Now, I base this accounting on knowledge. James tells us we do this “*Knowing,*” “*The trying of your faith worketh patience*”

Paul tells us the same thing in Romans 5:3, “*Knowing that tribulation worketh patience*”.

We conclude then, that trials are positive things because they work within us:

1. Patience

Patience = Endurance

Patience, James tells us has a “perfecting work.”

As we endure trials, we are perfected, we are strengthened.

III. Picture someone carrying a heavy load for a prolonged period of time. Their muscles become stronger over time and their endurance is strengthened.

This is what trials do for us.

James tells us that trials have a “perfecting work”, Paul tells us what that work is.

2. Experience

Experience = Proof

As we go through trials we gain the experience, yeah the proof, that God will take us through the trials and that He will work them out for Good. (Romans 8:28)

Then He tells us, experience brings

3. Hope

Hope for the Christians is the conviction that the best is yet to come.

It’s a hope that is based on the experience of the Christian...the experience of God bringing them through previous trials. It’s a hope that is set on heaven, that understands the worst that can happen is to wake up in the presence of the Lord.

4. Hope maketh not ashamed

Because my hope is set on God, it will never disappoint me, it will never embarrass me.

Conclusion:

Count it all joy when you enter a trial. Why?

1. Tribulation works patience
2. Patience brings experience
3. Experience brings hope
4. Hope never disappoints.