

THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

James 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces ^[a]patience.

James 1:4 But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

INTRO:

- (1) This morning, we are going to look at what Scripture says about our faith, when trials, and times of suffering come. Like the days we are living in, right now
- (2) There are three areas of Scripture we will look at today, which shed light on our faith during times of trial and difficulty
- (4) We are going to see who we are in Christ, what Our God has and is providing for us, and how we profit in times of trial in James 1

OUTLINE

- I. POSITION
- II. PROVISION
- III. PROFITING

I. OUR POSITION IN CHRIST, does not keep us from trials

ROMANS 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

ROMANS 5:2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God

ROMANS 5:3 And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;

ROMANS 5:4 and perseverance,¹character; and character, hope.

ROMANS 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

**1. I BELIEVE IT IS VITAL
TO UNDERSTAND WHAT
WE BELIEVE, BEFORE WE
CAN APPLY WHAT WE
BELIEVE**

**A. WHAT DO WE BELIEVE
ABOUT OUR POSITION
IN CHRIST? SEE ROM 5**

These four verses speak of what our God has already accomplished for us in the past, and what that blessing means to us, now, in our everyday life

IDEA: Paul starts with the first reality of our position, by saying, “having been justified” which has already happened

ROMANS 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

NOTICE: 5:1 having been justified. This phrase shows us, that justification has taken place, when you turned to Christ and believed in HIM.

IDEA: Justification is a one-time legal declaration with continuing results. In other words, it has happened, it is not, an on-going process, it has happened to us

ROMANS 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

NOTICE: peace with God. This is the result of Justification It is not a subjective, internal sense of calm and serenity, but an external, objective reality. This is what we have now.

God has declared Himself to be at war with every human being because of man's sinful rebellion against Him and His laws. But, we as believers have are no longer against God, we are now at peace with God

NOTICE" We also, have access

ROMANS 5:2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God

EXAMPLE: access. Used only twice elsewhere in the NT (Eph. 2:18; 3:12), this word always refers to the believer's access to God

What was unthinkable to the OT Jew is now available to all who come to Christ

IDEA: The idea behind the word access, is that of a way of approach, like an access point for ships, they come into the harbor.

ROMANS 5:2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God

Romans 5:2b stand.

This refers to the permanent, secure position believers enjoy in God's grace

NOTICE: Now we start to see what this position we have been given, works out in our daily life with God through Christ, and by the Holy Spirit

ROMANS 5:2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God

(1) We also now, rejoice which means to take pride in something, in or about a person or a thing. In hope of the glory of God, speaks of all that God is. We will rejoice before Him in and about His glory

(2) 5:3 tribulations.

A word used for pressure,
like that of a press
squeezing the fluid from
olives or grapes.

2 Timothy 3:12 Yes, and **all who** desire to **live godly** in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Tribulations are the inevitable troubles that come to followers of Christ because of their relationship with Him

Such difficulties produce rich spiritual benefits (vv. 3, 4).

Christians can glory in tribulations because of what those troubles produce.

ROMANS 5:4 and perseverance,¹character; and character, hope.

(3) perseverance.

Sometimes translated
patience, this word, refers
to endurance, the ability
to remain under tremen-
dous weight and pressure
without succumbing

(4) character. A better
translation is proven
character The word,
simply means proof.
It was used of testing
metals to determine
their purity. Here the
proof is Christian
character

Paul moves from the objective aspects of our security in Christ to the internal, more subjective. God has implanted within our hearts evidence that we belong to Him in that we love the One who first loved us

(5) Hope, which means
the looking forward to
something, with some
reason for confidence
respecting fulfillment,
expectation

ROMANS 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

(6) love of God poured out.

God's love for us has been
lavishly poured out to the
point of overflowing within
our hearts.

We know don't we, how our hearts jump for joy, when we see the truths of what God has done for us. Know these truths, and then walk in joy over them

I. OUR POSITION IN CHRIST..does not immunize us from trials, but brings blessings through them

II. OUR PROVISIONS IN CHRIST..meets what is needed

1st Peter 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

IDEA: Look what God has provided for you

NOTICE: Various trials.
Peter teaches several

important principles about
troubler/trials in this verse:

- (1) Trouble does not last
("little while");
- (2) Trouble serves a purpose
("if need be");
- (3) Trouble brings distress
("grieved");
- (4) Trouble comes in various forms
("various trials"); and
- (5) Trouble should not diminish
the Christian's joy ("greatly rejoice").

*I. OUR POSITION, DOES NOT IMMUNIZE US FROM TRIALS,
II. OUR PROVISION, IS TAKEN CARE OF BY OR GOD
WHO IS INFINITELY WISE*

III. OUR PROFITING ...from trials.

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

James 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience

James 1:4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

IDEA: There are eight
important truths here

- (1) Count it all joy
This actually a command
for us to obey, the idea
is to supervise, lead, to
guide yourself..

IDEA: The Gr. word for count may also be translated “consider” or evaluate.

The natural human response to trials is not to rejoice; therefore the believer must make a conscious commitment to face them with joy

James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

- (2) Fall into various trials means to move toward something, and hit against it, to strike it
- (3) Various, the existence of various kinds or modes, *diversified, manifold*
- (4) **Trials**, or troubles, something that breaks the pattern of peace, comfort, joy and happiness in someone’s life

The verb form of this word means “to put someone or something to the test,” with the purpose of discovering that person’s nature or that thing’s quality. God brings such tests to prove—and increase—the strength and quality of one’s faith and to demonstrate its validity (vv. 2–12).

Every trial becomes a test of faith designed to strengthen: if the believer fails the test by wrongly responding, that test then becomes a temptation, or a solicitation to evil

James 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience

- (5) Knowing that means to arrive at a knowledge of someone or something, know, know about, make

acquaintance of.
To experience it

- (6) **Testing.** as mentioned above
This means the process or means of determining the genuineness of something,
- (7) **Patience.** Better translated endurance,” or “perseverance.”
Through tests, a Christian will learn to withstand tenaciously the pressure of a trial until God removes it at His appointed time and even cherish the benefit.

James 1:4 But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

- (8) But let patience have it's perfect work

IDEA: perfect. Not a reference to sinless perfection but to spiritual maturity (cf. 1 John 2:14).

The testing of faith drives believers to deeper communion and greater trust in Christ—qualities that in turn produce a stable, godly, and righteous character). **complete.** From a compound Gr. word that lit. means “all the portions whole.”

2nd Cor12:9 My grace is sufficient for you. The present tense of the verb translated “is sufficient” reveals the constant availability of divine grace. God would not remove the thorn, as Paul had requested, but would continually supply him with grace to endure it

My strength is made perfect in weakness. The weaker the human instrument, the more clearly God's grace shines forth.

12:9, 10 Paul took no pleasure in the pain itself, but rejoiced in the power of Christ that it revealed through him.

If you truly believe in Jesus, it is for life. Saving faith is a life-long action in one direction.