
^[2] Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,¹ ^[3] knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ^[4] And let endurance have its finished work, that you may be complete and perfect, lacking in nothing.

[James 1:2-4]

“WHAT? Is the Lord serious? Am I really supposed to ‘consider trials’¹ that come into my life something to be ‘JOYFUL’ about?” In one word the answer to that question is an emphatic “YES!” The reason we are to consider trials¹ as something joyful is given in James 1:3. The reason we should be joyful in trials¹ is because of the result they bring into our FAITH-WALK. You are to understand that, *the TESTING of your FAITH PRODUCES ENDURANCE.*

Let me remind you that when God is the agent of the trial, the trial¹ is for the purpose of proving your faith. It is never for the purpose of causing you to fall. We know this because James 1:13 instructs us, *Let no one say when he is tempted,² “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt² anyone (with evil).*

It is the devil who tempts² you for the purpose of causing you to fall. According to James 1:14 the devil does this by enticing us to be “carried away and enticed by” our “own strong desires”, our “lusts”. These “strong desires”, “lusts” are defined for us in 1 John 2:16 as,

... all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life....

Then we are told that these things are,

not from the Father, but... from the world.

Look again at James 1, this time verse 15 where we are told that,

... when lust (strong desire) has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

Consider the warning in James 1:16 together with 1 John 2:17. James 1:16 warns us, “Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren”. Then 1 John 2:17 reminds us that “the world is passing away, and also its lusts, (strong desires); but the ONE WHO DOES the WILL of God ABIDES FOREVER.

We see this reflected in James 1:4 where we are told that we are to,

let ENDURANCE have its FINISHED WORK, that you may BE COMPLETE and PERFECT, LACKING IN NOTHING.

Jump ahead with me to James 5:10-11 where the Holy Spirit encourages us with two examples of ENDURANCE.

^[10] As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ^[11] Behold, we count those BLESSED who ENDURED. You have heard of the ENDURANCE of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

¹ “Trial(s) is Strong’s Greek dictionary noun number 3986.

² “Tempt(s)” or “tempted” is Strong’s Greek dictionary verb number 3985.

I close Today's Thought with James 1:12 where we learn that,

*Blessed is one who ENDURES under trial; for once they HAVE BEEN APPROVED,
they WILL RECEIVE the CROWN OF LIFE, WHICH
the LORD HAS PROMISED TO THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.*

Now please pray with me as we close Today's Thought.

O Father, I praise You for telling us that we are to consider it as a joyful occurrence when we encounter trials in our faith-walk. I now pray for myself and those praying with me that You would teach us that the reason we should do this is because the testing of our faith produces endurance. Teach us and remind us that when trials come, we should count them as joy because the finished work of enduring through trials is that we may be complete and perfect, lacking in nothing. When we begin to waver in our faith under trials, remind us that You do not tempt us with evil. Rather it is our own strong desires, our lusts that tempt us. When we begin to waver let Your Holy Spirit remind us that You have promised us that if through endurance we have been approved, we will receive the Crown of Life which You have promised to those of us who love You and endure. I ask this Father in the power and authority that is in the name of Jesus. Amen!

Please meditate and pray on these things!

Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to **know in a greater way** the **One** promising in His Word to never leave you or forsake you [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6, 8]!

BECAUSE I WANT TO ENDURE SO I CAN RECEIVE THE CROWN OF LIFE! – tom