

HELP! I'M IN TROUBLE! **Practical Faith – Part 1**

“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ: To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations. Greetings!” James 1:1

“2 When all kinds of trials crowd into your lives, don't resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends! 3 Realize they come to test your faith, and to produce in you the quality of endurance. 4 So let the process go on until that endurance is fully developed in you. Then you will become a person of mature character and integrity with no weak spots.” James 1:2-4

KEY OBSERVATION #1: How you handle stress will be determined by what you **REALIZE**, by what you know, and what you remember.

- **PERSPECTIVE** feeds your faith and faith gives you confidence.

4 Truths to Remember about Problems:

KEY TRUTH #1: Problems are **INEVITABLE!**

“When all kinds of trials crowd into your lives...” James 1:2a

“In the world, you will have tribulation.” John 16:33

“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.” 1 Peter 4:12

KEY TRUTH #2: Problems are **VARIED!**

“When all kinds of trials crowd into your lives...” James 1:2a

KEY TRUTH #3: Problems are **UNPREDICTABLE!**

“When all kinds of trials crowd into your lives...as intruders...” James 1:2b

“A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when he fell into a band of robbers.” Luke 10:30

KEY TRUTH #4: Problems are **PURPOSEFUL!**

“Realize that they come...to produce in you...” James 1:2c

3 Purposes of Problems:

PURPOSE #1: Problems test my **FAITH**

“Realize they come to test your faith...” James 1:3a

PURPOSE #2: Problems develop my **ENDURANCE**

“...and to produce in you the quality of endurance.” James 1:3b

PURPOSE #3: Problems **MATURE** my **CHARACTER**

“But let the process go on until that endurance is fully developed and you will become a person of mature character and integrity with no weak spots!” James 1:4

3 Responses to the Problems I'm Facing:

RESPONSE #1: **REJOICE** in the problem, knowing God can use it in my life.

“You meant it to harm me, but God meant it for good.” Genesis 50:20

“My friends, when you have many kinds of troubles, you should consider it, full of joy.” James 1:2

“We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him.” Romans 8:28

“I will bless the Lord at all times.” Psalm 34:1

RESPONSE #2: Ask God for **WISDOM**.

"If, in the process, any of you doesn't know how to meet any particular problem, you only have to ask God -- who gives generously--wisdom to all men without making them feel guilty -- and you may be sure that the necessary wisdom will be given to you." James 1:7

- **First**, you need wisdom so you can **LEARN** from the trouble.
- **Second**, I need wisdom, so **I KNOW** what God wants me to be and then do.

RESPONSE #3: RELY on God believing that He will help.

"But when you ask God for wisdom, you must sincerely believe and expect him to answer without doubting him." James 1:8

"6b When I was helpless, God saved me 7 and I said to myself, 'Relax, relax, because the Lord takes care of you.'" Psalm 116:6-7

"Each one of you should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

RESPONSE #4: Refuse to QUIT by remembering God's promises!

"Happy are those who remain faithful under trials because when they succeed in passing such a test, they will receive as their reward the life which God has promised to those who love him." James 1:12