

1. Read James 1:2–5 and John 16:33. How can we “rejoice” or “count it all joy” when we go through tribulations? Where must our focus be to do that?

2. Our natural reaction to tribulation is fear, bitterness, impatience and manipulation. According to Hebrews 13:5, Philip 4:13 and Romans 8:28–29, what must we believe to overcome those tendencies? What is the end game for believers in every situation (Romans 8:29)?

3. How do you tend to respond when you are falsely accused or treated unfairly? Why do you think that is?

4. What is the difference between hoping that God will deliver us from our circumstances and believing that God will walk through them with us?

5. To manipulate in a negative sense means to influence others to one’s own advantage with artful, deceptive or unfair means.

a. Read Genesis 40:14–15. Do you think Joseph was trying to manipulate the cupbearer? Why or why not?

b. Is it okay to ask others for help when enduring tribulation (James 5:14, Luke 11:5–13)?

c. Why doesn’t God reward manipulation (Jeremiah 17:5–8)?

6. How does walking in hope open the door for divine appointments?

7. Is it possible that our response to tribulation determines the length of our trials?

8. Satan can produce evidence to support a lie. How does Satan keep tricking you in the matter of perseverance?

Moving Forward

When we suffer, our hope should not be that God will deliver us from our circumstances, but that God will walk with us through them. Hope is what prepares us for divine appointments.

1. What trial or tribulation are you dealing with right now in which you need to develop perseverance (to battle with a right spirit)?

2. If you have responded with fear, bitterness, impatience or manipulation, confess it and ask God to forgive you. Ask Him to complete the work He is doing in your heart.

3. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through your current trials?