



When You're Under Pressure

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James 1:2-4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking in anything.

1. James challenges us to be **OVERCOMERS** and not to get caught up in the despair of pressures that come with life.
2. James was probably the **EARLIEST** writing found in the New Testament canon.
3. James has a consistent focus on **PRACTICAL** action in the life of faith.
4. James encourages God's people to act like **GOD'S** people.
5. To James, **FAITH** was no abstract proposition but had effects in the real world.
6. James teaches Christians how to conduct themselves since they are **UNDER THE CROSS**.
7. James implies that **TROUBLES AND AFFLICTIONS** may be the lot of the best Christians.
8. Just because you are a good Christian, you should not think it strange for **TROUBLES** to find you.
9. Trials and afflictions are in God's hand and they are intended for the **IMPROVEMENT** of the graces that God wants us to display.
10. Malachi 3:3 He sits as a refiner and purifier of **SILVER**.
11. Our testing is not a **PASSIVE** thing.
12. We begin to understand that what accompanies the testing of our faith is the Christian grace of **JOY**.
13. We count it all joy, **PURE JOY**, a sheer gift when tests come our way.
14. When things are tough, God is planning something really **BIG** for us and through us.
15. We do the **UNTHINKABLE** when bad things happen, we rejoice.
16. We are becoming conformable to Christ and thus such trials become the very marks of our **ADOPTION** into Christ's family.
17. Other graces are **PROMOTED** in us as we face trials.
18. James says that we should not try to **GET OUT** of things prematurely.

19. By allowing perseverance to do its work, we become TRIUMPHANT over our trials.

20. When we BEAR all that God has for us, not only bear, but rejoice in the trials, then patience will have done its perfect work and we will be ready for ANYTHING.

Key point: When we let perseverance do its work, it will provide us with all that is necessary for our Christian race and warfare and will enable us to persevere to the end where we will receive a crown of GLORY