

“FIVE BENEFITS OF COVID”

James 1:2-12

It's not a matter of IF but WHEN we face trials.

1 Peter 4:12 “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you”

We can come to see trials as a good thing. It doesn't mean we enjoy them, but we will get to the point of appreciating them, by counting them as a blessing.

Hebrews 12:2 “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame...”

I. We will have more patience (2-3)

1. Steadfastness/Patience is: Active endurance, not passive waiting. It is a lifting up and carrying on.

i. Hebrews 6:15 (NKJV) And so, after he [Abraham] had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

2. Patience is only produced through testing times. Like running a marathon, you got to train!

- i. “The real competition is against the little voice inside you that wants to quit” – Ultramarathoner*
- ii. “Somewhere along the line we seem to have confused comfort with happiness.”*

II. We will have more maturity (4)

1. Patient endurance is a mark of maturity.

- i. Psalm 37:23–25 ²³ *The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he delights in his way; ²⁴ though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the Lord upholds his hand. ²⁵ I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.*
- ii. Philippians 4:13 ¹³ *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

2. Through trials we become everything God wants us to be! (vs.4b)

- i. But we cannot achieve this without the trials.

III. We will have more wisdom (5)

1. **Most trials require wisdom and lead us to ask God for help.**
2. **Wisdom is important! You may think you need something else but this is what you need.**

- i. *Proverbs 4:7 (NIV) Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.*
- ii. *Proverbs 24:3 (NIV) By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established*

IV. We will have more faith (6-8)

1. Testing of your faith (Verse 3)

- i. “God always tests us to bring out the best; Satan tempts us to bring out the worst” Wiersbe, W. W.

2. Faith (like love) is a choice we must make. I choose to believe and trust Him. (Verse 6)

- i. [Hebrews 3:15–19 \(NKJV\)](#) while it is said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” 16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? 17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.
- ii. “Will you get bitter or better?”
- iii. “Our vision is so limited we can hardly imagine a love that does not show itself in protection from suffering.... The love of God did not protect His own Son.... He will not necessarily protect us - not from anything it takes to make us like His Son. A lot of hammering and chiseling and purifying by fire will have to go into the process.” — Elisabeth Elliot

3. A person who will not trust and follow God in the trial will never be sure or stable (Verses 6-8)

- i. Luke 6:48 (NKJV) He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.*

V. We will have proper perspective (9-12)

1. Perspective on Money. (Verses 9-11)

- i. Money is not supremely important. Even the poor are exalted in God's kingdom. (Vs.9)*
- ii. James 2:5 (NKJV) Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?*
- iii. Those who live for riches will fade away. (Vs.10-11)*
- iv. Matthew 6:19–21 (NKJV) "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

2. Perspective on Eternity (12)

- i. There is a future beyond the trial, and our reward lasts forever.
- ii. *2 Corinthians 4:17 (NKJV)* *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,*
- iii. Give your trials to God, he will turn it around for good.
- iv. *1 Peter 5:7 (NLT)* *Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.*



Discussion Questions

“Five Benefits of Covid”

James 1:2-12

1. Why do you think it’s important for Christians to have a good understanding of the reality and purpose of trials in our relationship with God?

2. Can you think of a few other times in world/church history where people’s trial was greater than the Covid-19 one? Talk about how our current trial is better/worse.

3. Patience/Endurance is essential to making it to the end. How can we stay spiritually active and build up our spiritual endurance during this time? (Bonus: What are you doing during isolation to stay physically active?)

4. Why do you think wisdom is more valuable than any other thing we could want during this trial?

5. The Bible talks about our faith being tested. Have you ever been to the breaking point in your faith where you felt like you were going to give up on God? God tests and strengthens our faith through trials, but what is the fine line between growing faith, and abandoning faith? In other words, how much is too much?
