

SLIDE 1

Thesis Statement: The purpose of this study is to equip believers to take God-given authority over their emotions during trials and to fully embrace the blessings, growth, and benefits that come through steadfast endurance.

INTRO:

If you don't know by now, your Pastor has an obsession with "Judge Judy." I'm guessing he likes the show, probably because it's wholesome. But I'm guessing what he likes and what has made the show so popular is that Judge Judy is a no-nonsense Judge with a sassy attitude and unwavering commitment to justice. She doesn't put up with anything. She's the judge and she lays down the law in her courtroom.

Tonight's study is titled, *Courtroom Christianity*.

Tonight, we're gonna see that **we** get to play the role of a **Judge** when it comes to how we handle our emotions when we go through trials. Open your Bibles to James chapter 1. We'll start in verse 2 when you get there.

It's my hope that this study will empower the believer to take our God-given authority over our emotions when enduring trials and to receive the blessings and benefits that come through enduring those trials.

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We'll have three points tonight.. Our first point is..

Christians should make **Judgments Of Joy** when going through Trials.

Our 2nd point is... Christians will be **Tried By Trials**

And our 3rd point is Christians will be **Perfected Through Patience**.

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With that as our outline, let's read starting in vs. 2.

Jas 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

Jas 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

Jas 1:4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

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I know James makes it sound so easy...but when we are faced with trials and temptations and the battle of our flesh, it can be hard to execute these verses. But as we dig into these passages, we'll see that God has given us the authority we need to apply these verses as we go through trials...

For example, that word COUNT found in verse 2 can be translated as to THINK, to esteem, to have RULE OVER, to be GOVERNOR over... It means to LEAD or command with official authority, and also means to judge. It was used for any kind of leader who rules with authority.

James is saying that when you run into trials, as believers, you are in charge. You're the JUDGE. You get the final say in how you handle them.

A lot of the time, when we have trials, we feel like the victim. But that is not the case for the born-again believer. We have been given the authority to rule over our emotions in times of trials.

Part of a judge's job is to know the LAW and then make a judgment based on the law. For the believer, the Bible is the LAW, and the LAW clearly tells us, when we run into trials, we are to **judge them as JOY.**

Now, as we get into the next two points, we'll see some of the benefits that come from trials, which answers why we can count it all joy... but before we do that, let's just focus on being obedient to what God's word says here. This is God's word here, giving us instructions, and we are to obey it.

I don't want to be insensitive here, because in our own lives we will go through small trials and we will go through great trials.. And some of you tonight have some little trials, and others are going through some difficult trials. I don't mean to diminish whatever you're going through, but I do want to encourage you to obey God's word.

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[2Co 10:3-6 NKJV] 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, 6 and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

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When we choose to make a *Judgement of Joy*, we are doing spiritual battle. Our minds want to run with how horrible our situation is, how bad the outcome may or may not be. The devil wants to scare us with all the possible outcomes. He wants to LIE to us about how God is abandoning us or doesn't love us. He wants to steal our joy.... But we are to take those thoughts captive and test

them to the scriptures. When it says bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ - its talking about taking our thoughts to the scriptures to find out what the truth is about the situation. To find out...how we are to handle the situation. As we do that, we see the truth of God's word, and we can destroy those lies the devil is firing at us.

So when we make a *judgment of Joy* out of obedience to God's word, we are fighting the good fight of faith, and we are protecting our peace in the midst of the trials.

Back in James, that word JOY in verse two can be translated as *gladness, joyfulness. It means great joy, cheerfulness, and CALM DELIGHT.*

This is the same word for JOY that was used when the Wise men saw the star of Bethlehem, when Jesus was born and it's the same word, joy, the women felt when they saw that Jesus' tomb was empty... That's the kind of joy we can have in trials.. They same joy of the coming Messiah and the same joy of th risen Messiah...

Who here doesn't want Cheerfulness & Calm Delight when facing trials? This is exactly what we want, and God is giving us the authority to choose it.

The devil comes to steal, kill and destroy.. And he wants to kill and destroy you with the trials, and steal your peace... God wants you to maintain your peace in the trial.

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[Phl 4:4-9 NKJV] 4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord [is] at hand. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

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First we're told to REJOICE ALWAYS.. So even when trials come, REJOICE... but then it says to be ANXIOUS for NOTHING.. So not even TRIALS are worthy of anxiety. But rather we are to pray, thankfully.. And when we do.. We receive His PEACE, and it's a peace that doesn't make sense to the natural understanding because...the trial that is trying to hurt is.. Might still be there... so it doesn't make sense that we would have this peace.. Except that we are trusting in God to take us through the trial.

Once we make the *Judgment of Joy* and we thankfully pray and receive the peace that surpasses all understanding, we can maintain it by following verses 8 and 9, In Philippians 4, it says..starting in vs 8..

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8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things [are] noble, whatever things [are] just, whatever things [are] pure, whatever things [are] lovely, whatever things [are] of good report, if [there is] any virtue and if [there is] anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things. 9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

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Believers, we can have PEACE and JOY as we go through trials because God's word says we can, we just have to trust and obey.

Now you might be here tonight, going through a trial, and this JOY and PEACE is not your experience.. I'd ask.. Are you doing the things that we just said to do? If not, implement them.. But also it's gonna take FAITH in God's word. Look back in James chapter 1, but this time drop down to verse 5

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[Jas 1:5-8 NKJV] 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 [he is] a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

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Listen, you need to have faith in God's word if you want to receive the blessings of His word. If you're struggling to have faith in times of trials, or in general, Romans 10:17 says..

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[Rom 10:17 NKJV] 17 So then faith [comes] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Get in the word. Read the word. If you're struggling, read more. Read until your faith in God changes...

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[Isa 55:11 NKJV] 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper [in the thing] for which I sent it.

God's word does not return void.

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As believers, we have the AUTHORITY to make a **JUDGEMENT of JOY** as we go through trials. But as believers, we need to know that Christians will be **Tried By Trials**. Let's re-read in James chapter 1 verses 2 & 3..

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***Jas 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,
Jas 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.***

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Notice that it doesn't say IF you fall into various trials.. BUT WHEN you fall into trials and not just trials but VARIOUS kinds..a variety of trials. You get to experience many kinds of trials.

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[1Pe 4:12-14 NKJV] 12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. 14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed [are you], for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

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Peter is saying.. Don't think it's weird that you're having the trials... it comes with the territory of being a Christian. We live in a fallen world, and so bad things happen because this world is cursed. But we also have an enemy that we do spiritual battle with, and so trials, tribulations, and temptations come our way...

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Jesus himself promised we'd have tribulations...

[Jhn 16:33 NKJV] 33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Again, notice that he still points us to his peace.. And the power of Him overcoming the world... and tells us to BE OF GOOD CHEER.

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Back in James - the word TRIAL in verse 2 can be translated as TEMPTATIONS, and it means.. Putting something to proof. To try something out to see how it is. Like when the devil tempts us to sin, he's trying us... to see if we're gonna walk in the way of the word or in the way of the world. He's checking to see how spiritual we are. Or how strong or weak we are in our faith. Are we really trusting God?

In verse 3, the word TESTING can be translated as TRYING or TRIAL, and it speaks of the trustworthiness of the thing you're testing.

Sometimes when I see those plastic lawn chairs that have been sitting in the brutal Texas sun for a couple of years.. I don't just sit in them... I test them out to see if I can trust them.

It's been said that the DEVIL TEMPTS us but God TESTS us. Sometimes it's the same trial.

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Drop down to verse 12...

[Jas 1:12-13 NKJV] 12 Blessed [is] the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

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God doesn't tempt us; our flesh and the devil do that. But rather God allows the tempting trials to show us where we are.

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[Pro 17:3 NKJV] 3 The refining pot [is] for silver and the furnace for gold, But the LORD tests the hearts.

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The refining process is to purify us. To take away the impurities...When the Christian is TRIED BY TRIALS, we are being purified. Perhaps the trial exposes how we've been holding onto this world too much. Not remembering our treasure is in heaven.

Sometimes these trials expose where we are weak in the faith.

When I was in school, there were times I thought I ACED a test.. I knew every answer... thought I'd make 100 only to get back a much, much lower grade than

expected. I thought I knew the material, but the test exposed the truth of the situation.

Sometimes our trials expose where we really are in our spiritual walk.

Sometimes we're humbled, other times we're encouraged. Like when I thought I'd fail the test only to get a much, much higher grade than anticipated. You walk away encouraged.

As a leader, I get to see new believers grow and go through various trials. It's cool to see how much someone has grown based on how they handle the new trials they go through. Sometimes I point out, can you imagine how you'd have handled this 2 years ago? Praise the Lord for your growth and maturity. It's encouraging to me.

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As Christians going through trials, we should make *judgments of Joy*, understanding that we WILL be *TRIED* by *TRIALS*, but we must also understand that one of the benefits of trials for the believer is that we become *Perfected Through Patience*.

Look back at verse 3 in James chapter 1.

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Jas 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

Jas 1:4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

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In law, there is a term called PERFECT which means that all the necessary steps have been taken for someone to have a clear right or interest in something... Basically, it means you completed all the steps needed.

In this point we'll see how the believer is made complete through PATIENCE.

One of the reasons we can count it all joy when going through trials is because the trial produces PATIENCE in the believer.

That word Patience means: *constance, patience in waiting, CHEERFUL or HOPEFUL endurance.*

One of the blessings of being TRIED by TRIALS is that we gain a CHEERFUL ENDURANCE as a believer.

I just mentioned how I get to see believers handling harder trials better than they would've when they were younger in the faith... That's because those trials produced a CHEERFUL ENDURANCE in them.. The trial might be greater, but so is the ENDURANCE developed from the previous trials.

There's a saying.. A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor. You need the training of adversity to make you a skilled sailor and you need the trials to make you a disciple with endurance. Look back at vs. 4

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Jas 1:4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

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The Greek word here for Perfect means complete as when work is done. But it also can mean complete in moral character or completeness, as in a fully grown person. It speaks of maturity.

James is wanting us to let Patience or Endurance do it's maturing work in us.. So that we may be MATURE and complete lacking nothing. Meaning that until this happens, we are currently lacking something.. And that something is spiritual maturity.

The Endurance that is produced by trials... it has a job to do. That job is to mature us. This is one of the benefits God has for us, for allowing trials in us...not to destroy us but to grow us and mature us.

One thing that has helped me in times of trials is to understand that EVERY TRIAL has a treasure chest of spiritual growth for me. I've gone through trials with a bad attitude and not counting it all as joy.. And at the end of the trial, just felt beat up and beat down. And that's on me.. But when I learned that TRIALS produce ENDURANCE for me... and trials produce Spiritual growth in me, it didn't make the trial easier per say, but it did give me a proper perspective on what God was doing IN ME and FOR ME.

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[Rom 8:28-39 NKJV] 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to [His] purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined [to be] conformed

to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Lets pause right here for a second - God uses all things, the trials included for our good... and He's predestined the believers to become more and more like Christ...and he uses those trials for that conforming process...

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30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God [is] for us, who [can be] against us?

32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? [It is] God who justifies.

34 Who [is] he who condemns? [It is] Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? [Shall] tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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When being Perfected By Patience - we need to remember that if the Father did not hold back His Son's life, but delivered Him up for us,,, what would he not give us that we need? No matter how bad the trial gets. No matter how long we have to endure, KNOW that God is working all things for your good and loves you.

Back in James chapter 1 We are being told to LET patience do its work in us. Let endurance do its work in us. Again if you don't, you miss out on the blessings.. But also, over the years, i've seen people who were once plugged into the church, serving,, when trials or temptation came there way,, they tuck tail and ran. The christian life was too hard for them. Its like the parable of the sower. Jesus tells of the sower who through seed on 3 types of grounds.. And then he explains the parable in Matt 13 starting in vs. 20...

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Mat 13:20 NKJV - "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

Mat 13:21 NKJV - "yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

Mat 13:22 NKJV - "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

Mat 13:23 NKJV - "But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

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Sadly - being in ministry over 20 years.. I've seen people not let patience have it's perfect work in their life. And it's not because God isn't big enough or strong enough.. But rather they chose to not endure. I hate to think, that maybe some of you here tonight or listening online are those people. I really do. And so im saying this outloud so that you can make sure it's not you.

Some of those people were "on fire" always serving.. But the devotion or connection to the Lord wasn't there. I've heard Bunjee say it this way.. It's not how high you jump, but how straight you walk when you land.

The Christian Race is a marathon not a sprint and therefore demands endurance.

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Heb 12:1 NKJV - Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Heb 12:2 NKJV - 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, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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We've talked about trials in general but I'll remind you that the word TRIAL is also translated as TEMPTATION. If we are going to be Perfected Through Patience, we need to free ourselves from sin and even those things that aren't necessarily sin, but are holding us back.. Making it hard to run the long distance.

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[1Pe 1:6-7 NKJV] 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, [being] much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

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There's gonna be trials and temptations in this life... but we've been called and authorized by God to make Judgments of Joy. As believers we're gonna be Tried By Those Trials and they will produce a patience in us that will perfect us according to God's plan.

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Lets Pray