

James – 1:2-4

Verse 2

All joy – These two words occur first in the Greek text for emphasis! We should view trials through the eyes of faith.

My brethren – James regards the readers as believers. He uses this word 'brethren' 15 times and assumes that his audience is truly brothers and sisters in the Lord.

When you encounter – Not if. Everyone will experience difficult times.

Various trials – The word of trials is *peira* and is sometimes translated temptation or tempted (verse 13). It carries the idea of testing our integrity, virtue, and character. It has a broad sense of 'trial or testing' but also a narrower meaning of 'temptation' or 'solicitation to evil'. Therefore in every trial (broad sense) there is also a 'temptation to evil' (narrow sense).

Verse 3

Knowing – James assumes that they understand trials and testing are part of God's plan.

The testing of your faith – This could be translated, "*Your quality-proven faith.*" Trials and testing apply the refining fire to our faith so that it can be purified and our selfish motives can be exposed.

Produces endurance - God wants to build up believers who can persevere in hard times. "*If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.*" Proverbs 24:10

Verse 4

Let endurance have its perfect result – Do not be impatient!

Allow the Lord to accomplish a complete work of endurance within you. "*No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.*" 1 Corinthians 10:13

Perfect and complete, lacking in nothing – Not sinless perfection but mature with no deficiency.

The Purposes of Temptation.

1. To test and prove our faith. I Peter 1:6-7, James 1:13, I Thess. 2:4
2. To teach us things we could not otherwise learn. Hebrews 5:8
3. To increase our love for God. James 1:12
4. To make us cast ourselves on God. II Cor. 1:8-10, II Cor. 12:7-9

Protection In Temptation.

1. God promises to limit the intensity and kind of temptation to what He knows we can bear. I Cor. 10:13, II Cor. 6:3-10
2. God promises to provide a way of escape. I Cor. 10:13, Heb. 2:18
The moment the test begins, the way out is available.

Procedures To Use In Temptation.

1. Rejoice in the midst of testing. James 1:2, Acts 5:41, Rom. 5:3
2. Endure temptation. James 1:12 To endure is to learn the lesson God has designed through the test.
3. Be in prayer about temptation. Matt. 6:13
4. Know when to flee. I Cor. 10:14, II Tim. 2:22, Genesis 39
Sometimes it is better to flee a situation than to stay and fight.
5. Destroy that which may become an instrument or means of sin. Romans 13:14, Acts 19:11-20 Usually the 'thing' involved is not in or of itself wrong, but it may become a tool to defeat us.
6. Keep good company. II Tim. 2:22, Proverbs 13:20

God designs temptation in the life of the believer to prove, teach, and increase our love for Him. Every Christian can expect to be tempted. God has promised to never put upon us more than we can bear successfully and to give us help and resources in the bearing.