

Where Maturity Gets Made

Last Sunday, Paul taught us that the mature aren't the ones who've arrived — they're the ones who know they haven't, and keep pressing on. The trials you would never choose are exactly where God is doing the work you would never make time for otherwise. Three things we'll consider today: (1) Count it all joy. (2) Testing produces endurance. (3) Endurance, allowed to finish, leaves you mature and complete.

I. Count It All Joy

- A. James 1:2: *Consider it a great **joy**, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials*
 - 1. This is a perspective that runs underneath bad circumstances.
 - 2. When the trial shows up at your door, the first move of faith is not "why me." The first move of faith is "What is God doing?"
- B. Notice the language.
 - 1. James 1:2: *whenever you experience **various** trials,*
 - 2. Various: that word in the Greek is the same one used for a coat of many colors. The trials come in every shade.
 - 3. **Whenever** you experience various trials,
 - a) Some of them are seasons we prepared for. Some of them are seasons we prayed against and got anyway.

II. Testing Produces Endurance

- A. James 1:3: *because you know that the **testing** of your faith produces endurance.*
 - 1. The testing isn't God trying to find out what's in you — He already knows.
 - 2. It is the process that forms something in you.
- B. James 1:3: *because you know that the testing of your faith produces **endurance**.*
 - 1. Endurance isn't a word we love in 2026.
 - a) It is what gets laid down, layer by layer, in the places where you've been pressed.
 - b) You only get it one way: by standing in something that wants to knock you over and not falling.
 - 2. James does not say the trial automatically produces endurance.
 - a) He says: *The testing of your **faith** produces endurance.* Faith is what's being tested.

III. Let Endurance Finish

- A. James 1:4: *And let endurance have its **full effect**, ...*
 - 1. We will be tempted to interrupt what God is doing.
 - 2. The painful place becomes the equipped place.
- B. The result:
 - 1. James 1:4: *so that you may be **mature** and **complete**, lacking **nothing**.*
- C. Mature and complete.
 - 1. The place where the maturing actually happens is the trial you wish wasn't there.
 - 2. Our job is not to figure out when we're done. Our job is to stay.

IV. As We Close

- A. The trial you would never have chosen is not a detour from your discipleship.
- B. Your job is not to figure out the timeline. Your job is to stay.
- C. Let the forge do what the forge does.