

# When Trials Come

James 1.1-12 presents us with a serious challenge. Sooner or later there will be a time of trial for us. Heartache; sorrow; disappointment; betrayal. It's not a matter of "if," but "when." While it is human nature to want to run or hurry through these things, we must view them as a chance to grow closer in our relationship with God.

## I. Trials will Come

- A. 1.2 - Consider it a great **joy**, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials,
- B. 1.2 - **various**. (polka-dotted) Trials come in all sorts of sizes and shapes.
- C. 1.2 - **trials**. (Context determines how this word is translated)
  - 1. Trial - times of difficulty that God uses as an opportunity to test us.
    - a) 1.3 - trials help us learn endurance, steadfastness, or patience.
    - b) 1.4 - This is where God aims for our growing maturity.
  - 2. Temptation - something sent by Satan to cause us to stumble.

## II. Wisdom Helps Us Prepare for Trials

- A. James 1.5 - God gives to all **generously** and ungrudgingly.... it will be given to Him.
- B. Proverbs 2.1-8 - wisdom comes as you apply Scripture to your life. Will you:
  - 1. 2.1 - accept God's words? **Store up** His commands within you?
  - 2. 2.4 - search for it like *hidden treasure*?
  - 3. 2.7 - God stores up success for the upright and is a **shield** for those who live in integrity.
  - 4. 2.8 - God **protects** the way of His faithful followers.
- C. Proverbs 2.6 - *The Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.*  
**Now** is the time to seek God's wisdom and understanding.

## III. Wisdom Helps us Evaluate the Source of Trials

- A. Sometimes our trials come directly from us.
- B. Sometimes difficulty comes from Satan by his using people to hurt us.
- C. Sometimes trial comes from things outside our control.
- D. James 4.7-8 - If Satan created the trial, then we learn to **draw near** to God...

## IV. Wisdom Enables us to Discern the Purpose for the Trial

- A. 1.3 - **Trials bring the testing of our faith.** 1 Peter 1.6-7: *the **proven** character of your faith is more valuable than gold...*
- B. Matthew 16.24-26 - **Trials test our devotion to Christ:** *Let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.*
- C. 1 Peter 1.7 - **Trials have a refining purpose.**
- D. 2 Thessalonians 1.3-4; 11-12 - **Trials allow God to demonstrate His sustaining power.**
- E. James 1.4 - **Trials produce Christ-like character in us.**
- F. 2 Corinthians 1.4 - **Trials equip us for service to others.** *So that we may be able to **comfort**.*

## Conclusion

- A. James 1.12 - *blessed is the one who endures trials.*

B. While you encounter trials...draw near to God and use the wisdom He provides.