

The Book Of James (Part 6) – Strength in Weakness January 24, 2026

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/pdc6f9x/part-6a>

*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is **not verbatim**. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document be printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliteration into the English alphabet. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.

Purpose in the Valley: Understanding Trials and Tribulation

This presentation by **Pastor Daniel Joseph** of **Corner Fringe Ministries** examines the theological necessity of enduring **trials and tribulations** as discussed in the Book of James. The teaching identifies **three distinct contexts** for human suffering: remaining faithful to God under persecution, developing spiritual strength through physical weakness, and receiving divine correction for sin. Daniel emphasizes that according to **biblical prophecy**, every believer will face challenges that test the endurance of their faith. Using the **Apostle Paul** as a primary example, he explains how suffering can serve as a tool for **maintaining humility** and allowing Christ's power to manifest. Ultimately, he argues that a believer's response to hardship determines their **spiritual survival** and serves as a powerful testimony to those around them. This message concludes by noting that God may use **difficult circumstances** to drive individuals toward repentance and restoration.

[Daniel Joseph]

Shabbat Shalom, everyone. We are in week six of our series on the Epistle of James. And, you know, currently we are hovering over verses two and three, and this is where James drops this profound wisdom upon us right at the head of his document, where he really gives us instructions for life. What he says is this in James 1:2-3—² **My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,** ³ **knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.** Again, remember in Greek that's "*hupomoné* (ὑπομονή)," and it means endurance.

Just to reiterate the point that we covered in the last couple of messages, this situation is going to happen to every single person in this room without exception. There are no exceptions here. We know this because of the words of Yeshua. He said in John 16:33, "**... In the world you will,** not might. You will **have tribulation ...**" Paul builds upon that and says in Acts 14:22, "**We must,** not might, we must **through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.**" This is not one of those moments where we come to the Bible and really look and say, "You know what? Oh man, that really doesn't apply to me." This applies to every man, woman, and child.

So, the most important part that we need to reflect upon, knowing this is coming, is how do you respond? How do you respond when this happens? Because I'll tell you, and it's not an exaggeration, it's not an overstatement, how you respond is going to be the difference between life and death. It'll be the difference between whether you rise or whether you fall. No exaggeration.

And so, given the importance of this topic, we're going to dig into this much deeper today. And what I want to do is to bring something to your attention. There is no one-size-fits-all solution when it comes to tribulation. When you get hurled into the Valley of the Shadow of Death, it's not because of one reason. There are multiple contexts in which this is going to happen to you, and you're going to experience this.

Probably the most notable context is the idea of you being faithful and unwavering to the Holy Word of God, to the commandments of God, and to the Holy Name of Yeshua. It's you being faithful, and we see this in Revelation 13:7— **It was granted to him** (the Beast), talking about the Antichrist, the rise of the Antichrist, **to make war with the saints ...** (Emphasis added).

Now, we know why they're making war. Here we are in Chapter 13; go back to Revelation 12:17, which we covered in our last message—**"And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring,** specifically those **who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ."**

The war has come to the believers. They don't have to go find it; it's coming to them. And so, they have it with the rise of the Antichrist; he goes —Revelation 13:7— **... to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.** (Emphasis added).

Then we continue in Revelation 13:15—**He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak—oh, look at this—and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.** (Emphasis added). To be killed. Why are they getting taken out? Why is this horrible? This is talking about a great tribulation. Why are they going through this? Why are they going to be taken out? Because of their faithfulness to God, period. This is one form of what we'll experience.

Paul says this, and this is so beautiful. —Romans 8:35— **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?** (Emphasis added). He's going through every trial you can think of, any tribulation, and how does he start? It's a rhetorical question. Who's going to separate us from the love of Christ? No one, no thing, no trial, no tribulation can separate us from His love. I'm going to tell you right now, if you cannot believe this, when the trial and the tribulation come, you will fall. You will be taken. You will not rise. You will not overcome it. You will actually compromise.

When the heat of the Antichrist comes down on you or the heat of whatever situation you've been hurled into, it will get the better of you because what you need at the moment when you're literally hanging by a thread or your life is in jeopardy and you're in total despair and everything that you see with your eyes of flesh looks hopeless, the only thing that's going to keep you together is receiving the love of Yeshua, nothing else. —1 Corinthians 13:8— **"HĒ agapē oude pote piptei ..."** (ἡ ἀγάπη οὐδέποτε πίπτει), **"Love never fails ..."** The only way we make it in times of tribulation is if you have the faith to actually receive the good nature, the character of our Lord, what He did for you, receiving His love, and that is what's going to give you the strength to carry on. We can't miss this.

Paul goes on and says this in Romans 8:36—**As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."** (Emphasis added). Why are the believers being hurled? Why are they being counted as sheep for the slaughter? For His name. You might want to have that

perspective in the moment when everything, all hell, has broken loose and everything's fallen apart, and people are dying. You're going to need to know it is for His name's sake.

What did Yeshua say in Matthew 10:22? **“And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake ...”** There is no way you could convince me that you can go through this generation and not be hated if you stand for His name. No way. Evil is reaching its fever pitch right now. It hates righteousness. It hates the morality that is laid out in the Bible. There's no way, if you're clinging to Christ, that you can go out into the world and be loved. You will be hated. And in those moments, you have to reflect upon—it's for His name. It's for His namesake that we do this.

So, as we look at what I would call the first context, it's very clear that righteous believers who are unwavering in the faith will face tribulation. And let's, you know, remember what Paul said to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:12—**Yes, and all who desire to live godly, meaning obediently and righteously, in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.** Not might—will. We have so many passages that are unambiguous; it's coming, and you need to be prepared for it. You need to know what strength you need to draw upon. And you need to have the clarity of why you are suffering.

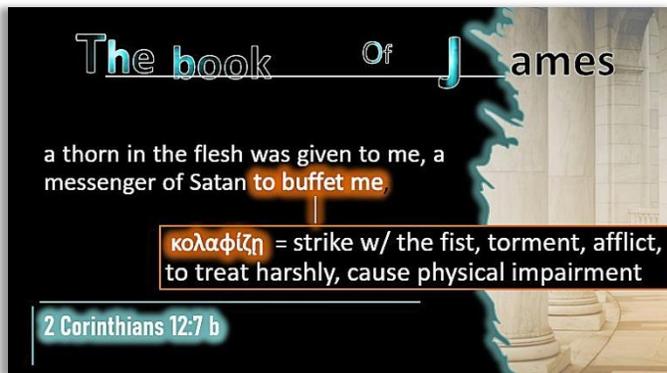
There is another context of why you may face trial and tribulation, and this is very different; it's not like the first one. We see this in Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians. He says this in 2 Corinthians 12:7—**And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, ...** I want to stop right here because, you know, the Apostle Paul is one of the most well-known and, may I say, influential figures in the history of the world. His ministry, and I say this without hesitation, is second only to Yeshua's.

The reason we come together on Shabbat is that we're coming together as believers in Yeshua, most of whom, not all, but most, are Gentiles. The only reason this happened was because of the work that God began in the Apostle Paul, establishing churches throughout the world, fulfilling that Great Commission, going out into all nations, baptizing them, and making disciples of Yeshua.

Paul had a ministry that was so great; let's just think about this for a second. Have you read his epistles? There's no way he wrote those things according to his own intellect and his own flesh. These things I have poured over his epistles, and I can tell you, this is not a work of man; it's far above. It's so superior to that that no man could write these things. His ability and his command of Scripture are second to none. His ability to navigate the Torah, to understand the reality of who Yeshua is. In fact, the beginning of his ministry did not begin with one man going out, telling another man, "Hey, you should receive the gospel." He literally got it from heaven. Divine revelation from Yeshua Himself saw the LORD of glory in His glory, went blind, and knocked off his animal. That's his beginning.

He had so many profound divine revelations, and don't forget, his ministry was filled with such power that even cloths were being brought from him, and the moment those cloths touched another human being, spirits were being driven out. Are you kidding me? He raised the dead; it's recorded in Acts. He doesn't just raise the dead; men who have been crippled from birth and never walked a day in their lives got up and walked. I mean, that's the power that went through this man. And even when he did that, when this paralytic walked, the men of Lystra, in the Iconian language, went out and declared that gods had come down to us in the form of men. They moved to worship Paul. I mean, think about this: his ministry was so great, men of earth, these pagans, moved to sacrifice and worship Him. That's the kind of power this man displayed.

And so, you go back to this statement of what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 12:7—**And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations.** What happens? **A thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan**—it's interesting; it's “*angelos Satana*” (ἄγγελος Σατανᾶ), an angel of the devil. This is an agent of the devil who has come to Paul for what purpose? **to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.** (Emphasis added).



Now, when you look at this in the Greek, “*kolaphizē*” (κολαφίζη) literally means to strike with their fist, to torment, and to afflict. This messenger of the devil had come to unleash hell on Paul “**lest I be exalted above measure.**” (Emphasis added).

Man, you can see how there would be a real threat in the Apostle Paul's ministry. Everything that God showed him and everything that God did through him—the threat was real for him to step back and to realize, “Man, how great he was.” This has happened to so many before. How many pastors have started a community with maybe 30 or 40 people, and it grew to 300 or 3000, and then they stepped back and went, “Wow, I'm really great. The people are coming to look at what I have built.”

A warning to the shepherds: If you started in an authentic move of God, nothing that happens to your community, not even a blessing, is because of you; certainly not because of Daniel. I'm nothing; I am dust. And the fact that God would even use me as an instrument still to this day makes no sense because I know one thing: I'm not worthy. And anything that happens that's good to this community is Yeshua's alone—period.

But there is a threat. There is a threat of getting puffed up. When God moves in you, let's move away from the Apostle Paul; let's talk about you. When God does great things through you, it's supposed to happen. If you are a servant of the Most High God, great things of Yeshua should be happening. —2 Chronicles 16:9— **For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him ...** That's His desire, and we've seen it. We read about it all the time, and some of you have actually physically witnessed the greatness of God. There is a threat.

And so here we are with Paul, and we're looking at this—“and lest he be exalted.” This is about humility pushing down pride. A messenger of evil is tormenting him. Now, how does Paul respond to this? He's going to respond the way Daniel would respond. This is how Daniel would respond. —2 Corinthians 12:8— **Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.** Get this filth off of me. Whatever is afflicting me, I'm done. I don't want to experience this anymore. And let me be clear, if anyone's got the ear of the LORD, it's the Apostle Paul. This is a man who's in the relationship. This is a man I know who, when he hits his knees, has the ear of Yeshua—powerful.

How does the LORD respond? —2 Corinthians 12:9— **And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you ...”** Paul asked three times, and the answer is no. Why? Because I've actually given you My grace. Oh, my goodness. When we're in the trial and tribulation, do we have any perspective at all of the grace of God being all over it? Paul didn't, and let's be clear, this is a man with a double anointing. There was a

blindness that he had that is now being revealed, that in this affliction of being tormented by an agent of the devil, God's grace is all over this. How does that even work? Listen to what he says in addition to that. Do you want to understand how powerful this grace is? **"... for My strength is made perfect in weakness."** (Emphasis added). That's a game-changer. That's a complete game-changer and then some.

My strength is made perfect in weakness. You know what makes us feel good? What makes us feel good is that we eat healthily. Yeah, we go to the gym, we feel strong, and we feel put together. But when you go to the Bible, the Bible describes that as no strength at all; it's actually weakness. Where we get strength is when we are sucking wind and hanging by a thread, and we feel weak in the flesh, and we feel we can't go on anymore, and we're done. In that moment, that's where His strength is being perfected. That's where His strength is being perfected.

And so, listen to Paul's response because he now has a new revelation. Two minutes ago, he was begging, "Get this thing off of me," and now he says in 2 Corinthians 12:9, **"Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities."** That word "boast" means "to rejoice." Does that sound familiar? What did James say? —James 1:2— **My brethren, count it all joy ...** Now Paul is rejoicing because he knows **that the power of Christ may rest upon me.** (Emphasis added). When the strength is being made perfect in his weakness, he would rather suffer from an agent of the devil and be tormented day and night, that the power of Yeshua may be upon him. That's his treasure.

Is that your philosophy? When you're sucking wind, when you're in the midst of the heat of the battle, when you've been thrown into the Valley of the Shadow of Death, when you're being afflicted, and when you're being tormented, can you find the grace of God? Do you understand that His strength is now being perfected? The power of Christ wants to move through you. It's not going to do you as you're walking around all puffed up. It'll never happen. I long to see a generation of believers like this rise, wherein their weakness they're made into titans of the faith. You would look at them in the flesh, and you'd be like, "You look pathetic." You know Paul did. He was a scrawny, pathetic, afflicted little man in the flesh. Oh, that's the guy I want to be with because the grace of God is all over him. The strength of the LORD is perfected. The power of Christ is moving. It is better to continue in the affliction that the power of Yeshua rests on us—so awesome.

2 Corinthians 12:10—**Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities ...** Can anyone say that? What is your history in this? I take pleasure in infirmities, **in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.** (Emphasis added). Do we have any clarity at all? When we are weak, then we are strong. Paul says in 2 Timothy 2:10, **"Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect."** (Emphasis added). It's not even just about him. Paul is now showing you the dynamics of how this affects everyone in the faith, **"that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory."**

I want to say something. When you get hurled into the Valley of the Shadow of Death, people are watching your response. Your spouse is watching you. Your children are watching you. Your friends are watching you. Your coworkers are watching you. Are they going to see that the power of Christ is moving through you? Are they going to see His strength being made perfect in your weakness, or are they going to see doubt? Are they going to see complaining and frustration? Are they going to see that now you're getting angry with God and now you're blaming Him? What are they going to see?

Paul being able to literally count it all joy to be able to rejoice in the moment where he's getting his clock cleaned, he's hanging by a thread, and he has no strength in his flesh. He holds the line and

rejoices, and that builds the faith of others; it's a game-changer. It's not just about how you respond in the sense of what's going to happen to you personally, because yes, you will rise or fall in that moment. But if you choose well and you have the clarity, others will rise, and others will have the faith and the strength because they saw it. They saw Yeshua being perfected in you, and they're going to do the same. This is so powerful.

As we look at this, Paul wasn't the only one. Timothy had a similar situation to the Apostle Paul. It's really amazing. As we go to 1 Timothy, look at this. Paul, keep in mind this is Paul; we remember his ministry, right? Insane ministry. —1 Timothy 5:23— **No longer drink only water**, he's saying this, and obviously, what we're seeing is we're seeing at least some form of asceticism here with Timothy. He's abstaining from everything else. **No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.** (Emphasis added).

How does that even make any sense? This is a guy who's raising the dead. Paralytics who have never walked are getting up and picking up their mat; they're now walking. The sick are being healed; I mean, these are with cloths leaving him, and demons are being driven out. And now Paul, the same guy, is coming to Timothy and giving medical advice, and that's not an exaggeration. When I say medical advice in the first century, let's be clear, we know for a fact wine was used medicinally; we see it in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. We see wine in Proverbs 31:6-7 being used for palliative care. We see the writings of Pliny the Elder; we see Plutarch, and we have one of the greatest physicians ever known in the world: Hippocrates. This is where we get the Hippocratic oath that, as we discovered back in 2019 and 2020, wasn't followed, but that's a different story.

We have Hippocrates as a physician, and what do they prescribe in certain cases? It was wine; it was used medicinally. And you know, it's interesting that there are many who very strongly believe that this was actual medical advice coming through Luke, through Paul, because Luke was a physician. Don't you find it bizarre that God, who did unbelievable miracles through Paul, is coming to Timothy? You wonder what Timothy's thinking—Oh, Paul's just going to say, in the name of Yeshua, be healed. No, he gives him medical advice. Why? Because Yeshua's strength is being made perfect in his weakness.

You know, growing up and seeing the Word of Faith movement and this mindset that if someone's not healed, it's because they don't have enough faith. What Bible are you reading? It baffles me; it absolutely does. Now, let's be clear, because I grew up Pentecostal, I grew up AG, and we know a thing or two about healing. I myself, my testimony—I'd be a liar if I didn't say I was supernaturally healed, and I declare it for His glory; God heals. But once you start assessing certain people, they're not getting healed, and you start looking at them thinking they don't have faith; you don't know what you're talking about. You don't have a clue because what I see mostly is suffering. I see weakness intentionally because that's where strength is being made perfect. I want that. Are you willing to have that?

I'm going to tell you; Timothy was a titan of the faith; he went out. It makes perfect sense that the very thing Paul had to endure Timothy also endured in a different way. There's a cost to anointing. The great men historically that we have seen that bore a true anointing suffered affliction. God is keeping them humble, promoting that humility; it's really something.

And so, thus far, we have two reasons why someone would suffer, and they're very different. Number one, because someone is faithful to the commandments of God. Someone is faithful to the Holy Name of Yeshua. Number two, you need the strength of the LORD. It needs to be perfected in your weakness. God needs to bring a little humility. And in that place, then we know God can lift you up.

There is a third reason. And the third reason is very different from the first two, and that's sin. There will be times that you get hurled into the Valley of the Shadow of Death because you've been dancing with the devil, because you've gotten off the narrow path, and because you've made friends with the world. And in those moments, you'd better recognize it because it changes the response.

We read this in Psalm 39:10-11—¹⁰ **Remove Your plague from me; I am consumed by the blow of Your hand.** David is recognizing that the LORD Himself has gone after him, and David is crying out, "Remove this from me. I'm consumed by the blow of your hand." ¹¹ **When with rebukes You correct man for iniquity, You make his beauty melt away like a moth; surely every man is vapor. Selah.** (Emphasis added).

David is highlighting the chastening of the LORD specifically because of iniquity. If you want a little fear of God, go read Leviticus Chapter 26 and see how God deals with His people who came into a covenant with Him but then slipped off into sin and forgot their God. Do you know what happens? I mean, you go read it, the scariest things imaginable started coming upon them—I mean, hellish, nightmarish situations to the point that you don't even want to talk about them. And the LORD sets this up and says, "Yeah, I'm going to pour this out on you. And if you still do not turn back to Me, if you do not repent, I will increase it seven more times. And if you still are unrepentant, then I'm going to increase it seven more times."

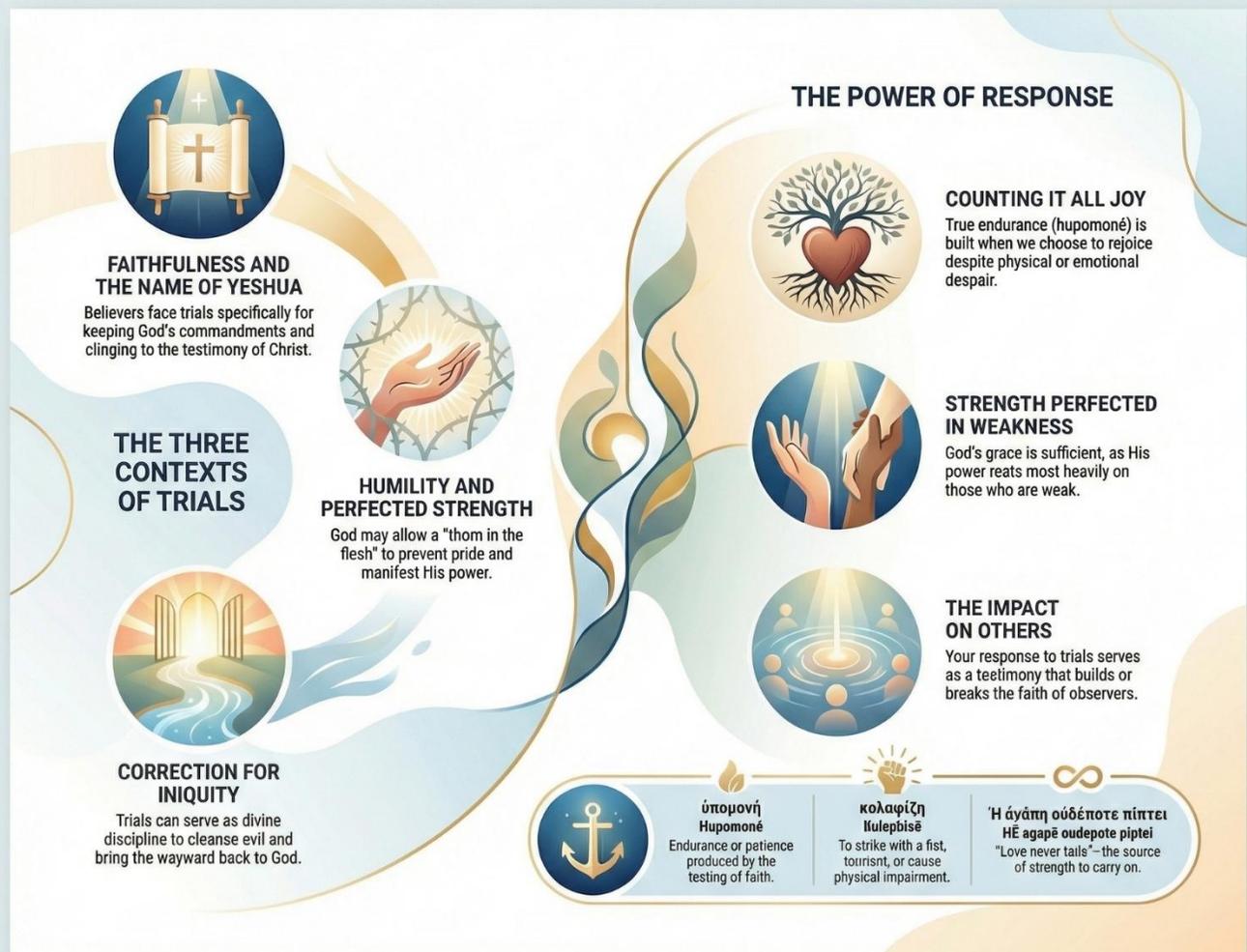
And here's what I've discovered after reading just the Torah, let alone the whole Bible. When it comes to sin, God doesn't play. You don't get to play the harlot. You don't get to dance with the devil. You don't get to make friends with the world without the LORD taking notice. And you better believe He's willing to do whatever it takes to unleash hell on you. For what purpose? Because He hates you? He wants to bring you home. And so, we are so stubborn and thick-headed and stiff-necked that it takes us to have our world completely flipped upside down to actually get our perspectives in order and our priorities in line and to say, "LORD, all that matters is You now. That's all that matters."

We read this in Proverbs 20:30—**Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, as do stripes the inner depths of the heart.**

[Due to a faulty fire alarm, service was abruptly ended. Praise God there was no fire! To be continued ...]

Shabbat Shalom!

Understanding Tribulation: Why We Face Trials



FAITHFULNESS AND THE NAME OF YESHUA
Believers face trials specifically for keeping God's commandments and clinging to the testimony of Christ.

THE THREE CONTEXTS OF TRIALS



CORRECTION FOR INIQUITY
Trials can serve as divine discipline to cleanse evil and bring the wayward back to God.



HUMILITY AND PERFECTED STRENGTH
God may allow a "thorn in the flesh" to prevent pride and manifest His power.

THE POWER OF RESPONSE



COUNTING IT ALL JOY
True endurance (hupomoné) is built when we choose to rejoice despite physical or emotional despair.



STRENGTH PERFECTED IN WEAKNESS
God's grace is sufficient, as His power rears most heavily on those who are weak.



THE IMPACT ON OTHERS
Your response to trials serves as a testimony that builds or breaks the faith of observers.



ὑπομονή
Hupomoné
Endurance or patience produced by the testing of faith.



κολαφίζη
Kulepisisē
To strike with a fist, torment, or cause physical impairment.



Ἡ ἀγάπη οὐδέποτε πίπτει
HĒ agapē oudepote piptei
"Love never fails"—the source of strength to carry on.