

Choose JOY and OBEDIENCE ~ James 1:1-27

→ Scripture Reading James 1.2-4, 12, 19-20

INTRODUCTION

James 1:1-3 Don't be surprised or troubled when you encounter CONFLICT and PAINFUL TRIALS. This is one way your faith is TESTED - to see if you will you rely on your own understanding, or TRUST the Lord with ALL your being. (Paraphrase - JD Small)

James 1:22-25 It's not enough to just HEAR the TRUTH. If you don't let it change your mind... ..God's blessing can only flow into the lives of those who USE His Word to faithfully examine themselves to "HEAR" what He SAYS about them and who FOLLOW THROUGH with appropriate ACTION. (Paraphrase - JD Small)

Trials Have a GOOD Purpose ~ James 1:2-5

[2] Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face TRIALS of many kinds, [3] because you know that the TESTING of your faith develops perseverance. [4] Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

[2] When all kinds of trials and temptations crowd into your lives my brothers, don't RESENT them as intruders, but WELCOME them as friends. (JBP)

[5] If any of you **lacks WISDOM**, he should **ask God**, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him...

IMPLICATIONS

→ WISDOM from God is Needed so that we can EMBRACE Trials

God will NOT shape our CHARACTER without our COOPERATION - Wiersbe

→ TESTING should be Welcomed with JOY because of the RESULTS in our lives

Romans 8:28-29 (NIV) And we know that IN ALL things God works for the GOOD of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. [29] For those God foreknew He also predestined to be CONFORMED to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.

If our goal is to KNOW God and to be CONFORMED into His likeness, then we can take JOY in TRIALS because we can KNOW that no matter how tough these trials are, they are moving us toward our goal. D.Platt

God does NOT CHANGE ~ James 1:16-17

[16] Don't be DECEIVED, my dear brothers. [17] Every GOOD and PERFECT gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not CHANGE like shifting shadows.

Be Quick to LISTEN and Quick to OBEY ~ James 1:19-20, 22

[19] My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be QUICK to LISTEN, SLOW to SPEAK and SLOW to become ANGRY, [20] for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires...

...[22] Do not merely LISTEN to the WORD, and so deceive yourselves. DO what it SAYS.

Romans 15:4 (NIV) For everything that was written in the PAST was written to TEACH us, so that through ENDURANCE and the ENCOURAGEMENT of the Scriptures we might have HOPE.

TAKE AWAY ??

→Picture of Mountain

→Picture of Base Camp