

James 1:1-8

## "Remember God's Purpose in Trials"

### I. THE REASON FOR THE TRIAL (JAMES 1:1-3)

Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

#### A. THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR FAITH (JAMES 1:2-3)

The word "tempt" in verse 13 means to solicit to do evil. But in verse 2 "temptations" means testings or trials. In verses 3, "trying" means developing.

"A faith that has not been tested cannot be trusted." – John Maxwell

Romans 8:29, "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

#### B. THE DISPLAY OF OUR FAITH (JAMES 1:3)

"Worketh patience" - The word *patience* means *endurance*.

Romans 5:3, "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;"

Genesis 50:20, "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."

1 Peter 1:7, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"

### II. THE ROUTE OF THE TRIAL (JAMES 1:4)

"Too many Christians are saying to God, 'Not Thy will but mine be done.'" – A. Rogers

"He that would pick up his cross must first lay down his will. Gethsemane always precedes Golgotha." – Kurt Skelly

#### A. A ROUTE OF SURRENDER

1 Peter 5:6-7, "6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

1. Surrender your past.

Philippians 3:13, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,"

2. Surrender your present.

3. Surrender your future.

Hebrews 4:14-16, "14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

#### B. A ROUTE OF STRENGTHENING

"That ye may be perfect" means that you will mature; that you will grow. Your trials are a grace from God?

1 Peter 5:10, "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."

### III. THE RESULT OF THE TRIAL (JAMES 1:4-6)

#### A. WE WILL ASK FOR WISDOM (JAMES 1:5 A)

Psalms 111:10, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever."

"The doorstep to the temple of wisdom is a knowledge of our own ignorance." - Charles Spurgeon

Romans 4:20-21, "20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."

Proverbs 3:5-6, "5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

#### B. WE WILL RECEIVE WISDOM (JAMES 1:5 B)

11 Corinthians 12:9, "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

#### C. WE WILL MATURE SPIRITUALLY (JAMES 1:4)

1 Thessalonians 5:23, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 1:6-7, "6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"