

James 1:2-4 Lesson 19

Genuine Faith Rejoices in the Midst of Trials

Day 1 Read James Chapter 1 Enter with the Right Attitude

1. We live in a culture that has an aversion to pain. It is based upon the false assumption that we are **endowed with a right not to have to endure it**. Give some examples. _____

2. How does this false assumption stunt the **maturation process** in our lives? _____

3. We then transfer this concept to our parenting as we **shield** our children from pain. Explain this statement and some devastating results. _____

4. Our Heavenly Father loves us too much to stunt our spiritual growth. He therefore brings trials into our lives to help mature us. Look at the command in verse 2. What is the **assumption** about God behind the command to **“be joyful”**? How is this different than the premise behind our normal response of fear, despondency, or anger? _____

Day 2 Read James Chapter 1 Enter with the Right Attitude

1. Verse 2 says we are to be joyful **“when”** we encounter trials, not because. Explain the difference. Give an example of a proper response to trials. _____

2. This is not an easy task as we often seek happiness rather than joy. **“Happiness is an emotion based upon one’s circumstances, while joy is a deep abiding peace and exultation based upon the personhood of God.”** Give some Biblical examples (and references) of those who rejoiced in the midst of trials. _____

3. Look at the reason for our joyful response in verse 3. That word **“endurance”** means **“to bear up under”**. It is an attitude of perseverance rather than resolution. Explain what this attitude looks like using a real life trial. _____

Day 3 Read James Chapter 1 Enter with the Right Attitude

1. This attitude of joy requires a **“priority worldview”**. It is about what really matters, looking forward to Christ and His return. Look up the following verses and write a sentence or two below on how you would “disciple” another in practical terms to take the long view. (1 Peter 1:6-7, 4:12-13, Heb 12:2) _____

2. How is this understanding of trials being **“God’s divinely ordained growth tool”** different than what is being taught in Christendom today? What are the dangers of this sort of teaching? _____

Day 4 Read James Chapter 1 Endure for the Right Reason

1. Read verse 4. Is this talking about sinless perfection? What does James mean by the word **“perfect”**? (Matt 5:48, Gen 6:9). _____

2. Ultimately, God is producing maturity in us – a life that exemplifies Christ’s rule in our lives rather than our own self-rule. How would you biblically counsel someone who chose to **“numb”** the pain of their trial? _____

3. Genuine faith **“perseveres rather than punts”** and **“rejoices rather than recoils”**. Explain how God can command perseverance and promise it as well. _____

4. What is a specific trial you are going through right now? What do you think God wants from you? _____

“Mature Christians are the end product of testing.”

- Doug Moo

