

JAMES

Lesson 3: Benefits of Trials and Tribulations (Part 2)

29 Nov 2019

Scriptural Harmony Concerning Trials:

Job 1:23 Job was a God-fearing man whom God allowed to go through a very difficult trial.

Job 23:8-10 Job knew that his trial would result in his perfection. He knew he could trust God and that the trial would prove to be beneficial in the end.

Rom 8:28-29 God wants to conform you to the image of Jesus Christ. Trials are a necessary ingredient to make that possible. That knowledge (joined with faith) will help you to accept each trial as something that is working together for good.

James 1:3-11, Verse by Verse:

Vs 3 Your faith is tried by trials. God is faithful; He's not on trial. He is able to deliver you. Are you able to trust Him?

3-4 When you're in a trial, you need to be patient and see it through to the end (to perfection). If you quit before the trial does the work God intended to accomplish in you, you will come out of the trial without any benefits from it.

Vs 5 Believers in times of tribulation must ask God for wisdom. God wants you to ask for it, He's happy to give it, and He's got plenty in reserve (Prov 2:6-7).

Vs 6 When you ask God for wisdom, you've got to believe that you'll receive what you asked Him for (Mark 11:24). If you lack faith when you pray, you will end up wavering, never able to commit to anything.

When facing troubles, God wants you to stand still and trust Him (Exod 14:13, 2 Chron 20:17). If you don't, you'll be double-minded and unstable in all your ways (**vs 8**), trying all kinds of things you hope will alleviate your troubles because you fail to trust the Lord.

7-8 A man who prays without faith should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. A double-minded man may know that God is working to mature him, but that man's doubt will make it impossible to fully trust God and receive the benefits of the trial. He'll begin to trust other methods of coping with the trial (drugs, alcohol, psychiatrists, etc.).

9-10 Christian unity crosses the boundaries of economic or social standing. A rich man and a poor man will be brothers in Christ; both saved by the blood of Jesus Christ.

There is equality in their standing in Christ, though there may be inequality in their state. Getting saved does not affect your current state.

The Bible does not teach socialism (share the wealth) or Communism (wealth controlled by the state). The Bible teaches that there will be rich and there will be poor; saved or lost.

The rich and the poor (in Christ) are able to minister to others in different ways. The poor can minister in ways the rich can't, and vice-versa.

Verse 10 illustrates the lesson taught in verses 2-8. The rich Christian can "**count it all joy**" (vs 2) when "**he is made low**" (vs 10) and loses his money. If he trusts the Lord in that, he'll rejoice that he has a closer walk with God and has become a better man as a result.

10-11 The illustration of the grass: whatever your current state, your condition on earth is only temporary. It should be as natural as the sunrise scorching the grass to expect that trouble could come your way and devastate your life; if you have eternal life, it doesn't have to destroy you. Turn to God and get the wisdom you need to get through the trouble.

Other grass illustrations in the Bible:

Psalms 103:13-16 _____

Isaiah 40:3-8 _____

1 Peter 1:24-25 _____

Matthew 6:19-30 _____

Lesson: at some point in time, we will wither like grass; we'll fade and fall away like the flower. But until that time, God has promised to take care of His own.

Three things to do in times of trial:

1. Count it all joy that God is doing a good work in you.
 2. Let patience work. God is patiently perfecting you.
 3. Ask God for his perfect wisdom.
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Three things that trials are intended to accomplish:

1. They make us grow into more Christlike individuals (Rom 5:1-5). Paul said we can glory in tribulations also because of the work that will be accomplished in us as a result.
 2. They teach us the word of God more fully by experiencing what you have learned (Rom 5:3-5, Psa 119:67, 71). The experience of the trial teaches you that you can fully trust God in that trial.
 3. They make us long for Heaven (Rom 8:18, 25-29, 2 Cor 4:16-18).
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