



## HOW WILL WE RESPOND TO TRIALS?

June 21, 2026

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### SUMMARY

Everyone goes through trials and temptations. We can either respond in a Christlike way or in a worldly way. When we raise the standard of our response to trials to Christ's standard, the Lord matures our faith and builds up our spiritual endurance. Confident in God's character and what He will produce in us, James challenges us to face every trial with pure joy.

### JAMES 1:1-4

<sup>1</sup> James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

<sup>2</sup> Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. <sup>4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing,

## 1. TRIALS TEST THE TRUENESS OF OUR TRUST.

**Moo, D. J. (2000). The Letter of James (p. 54).**

“The difficulties of life are intended by God to refine our faith: heating it in the crucible of suffering so that impurities might be refined away and so that it might become pure and valuable before the Lord.”

## 2. TESTED TRUST PRODUCES PERSEVERANCE.

**Hebrews 12:1-3 NIV84**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. <sup>2</sup> Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

## 3. PERSEVERANCE DEEPENS MATURITY.

**Swindoll, Living Insights: James and 1 & 2 Peter, p. 23.**

“So, how do believers rise above troubles in everyday life? They face them with a deliberate attitude of joy, calling to mind the process God is working out in their lives, and cooperating with the entire process.”

## FACE TRIALS WITH TRUE JOY.

**Swindoll, Living Insights: James and 1 & 2 Peter, p. 23.**

<sup>8</sup> I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. <sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is some of the best "fatherly" advice you've received?
2. Read James 1:1. James identifies himself as a "servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" rather than as Jesus' brother. What does this reveal about his humility?
3. Read James 1:2.-4 What is your natural response when you encounter trials?
4. James says, "Count it all joy" when you face various trials. What does he mean by joy, and what does he not mean?
5. According to verse 3, what is one of God's purposes for allowing trials in the life of a believer?
6. What has been a trial in your past that God used to strengthen your faith?
7. How do your responses to trials reveal what you truly believe about God's goodness and sovereignty?
8. Since Christ is our Standard, what qualities of His life and ministry do you see reflected in James' call to perseverance?
9. What specific trial are you facing right now, and how might God be using it to shape Christlike character in you?
10. What did God have most for you from this week's passage and message?

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