

James 1:1-11

Having Joy in the Midst of Trials

No one likes going through difficult times. Yet, going through trials is part of life. God allows trials because He uses them to serve a purpose in our lives. We may never look forward to difficult days, but our passage today will show that we can find joy in what God is accomplishing through them.

> What are trials to produce in the believer's life (vv. 2-4)?

Patience/steadfastness – the ability to handle difficult situations.

> What is the believer's responsibility in a trial? Allow the trial to serve its purpose and develop greater patience in your life.

> Who should you go to in times of trial (v. 5)? Why? Take any concerns directly to God, for He can provide all we need to endure.

> What condition must be fulfilled on our part when we go to God (vv. 6-8)? We are to have faith. God wants us to express trust, not have a heart that is constantly questioning or doubting.

> How do you see verses 9-11 connecting with all of this? It shows humility (no matter our status) is needed through all of this.

Application

Note three keys for persevering through difficult times:

- A right attitude – having joy in the work God is doing
- A submissive will – allowing God to fulfill His purpose
- A believing heart – trusting in God through it all

How trials affect us depend on our view of God. If we doubt God's sovereignty over a situation, we become discouraged, depressed, or even hopeless. But if we recognize God is in control, we will see the trial as a privilege that will benefit us, not hurt us! God is working through such circumstances to mature us into who He wants us to be. May we allow God to do such a work in our lives, and find true joy through it all!

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