

PRAYING THROUGH HARD TIMES

JAMES 1

Text:

Introduction:

When we began this series we saw that the apostles ask the Lord to teach them to pray. Keep in mind if we truly have a desire for the Lord to teach us to pray; (Not To Pray) it will probably come about because of things that will drive us to our knees.

All true followers of Jesus are surrounded by a variety of endless trials and tests.

James reveals to us the secret of how we are to go through these times in our lives:

1. ENTERING INTO TRIALS (VS. 2-4)

James 1:2-4

² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴ But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

The Christian life is not a victorious life, it is a victorious BATTLE!

We are to count it all joy when we face these various temptations.

Why?

The Bible gives the answer:

The trying of our faith develops patience.

Patience brings about a maturing or growth.

2. ENDURING THROUGH TRIALS (VS. 5-11)

James 1:5-11

⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. ⁷ For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. ⁸ A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways. ⁹ Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted: ¹⁰ But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away. ¹¹ For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

How do we deal or endure through these trials without sinking under the pressure?

A. Pray

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God

1. Ask for wisdom

James doesn't say ask for strength, nor grace, nor deliverance from trouble. We are to ask for wisdom.

- Wisdom on how to honor the Lord through the trial
- Wisdom to see the matter from God's perspective
- Wisdom not to waste this opportunity to grow

2. Ask in faith

When we ask, we must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

The one who ask wavering is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

3. Surrender your will to God

- God will not build our character without our co-operation or consent.

- Jonah obeyed God and went to Nineveh and never grew through the experience because of his reluctant obedience.
- Instead he went outside Nineveh, sat down and complained that God did not destroy the city.
- He was like a spoiled child.
- Be careful to obey but also to surrender your will to God's

3. EMERGING FROM TRIALS (VS.12)

James 1:12

¹² Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

It is not every man who suffers, that is blessed; but he who with patience and constancy goes through all difficulties in the way of duty.

The tried Christian shall be a crowned one.

The crown of life is promised to all who have the love of God reigning in their hearts.

Every soul that truly loves God shall have their trials in this world fully recompensed in that world above, where love is made perfect.

What will we do with this crown?

Isn't just like the goodness of the Lord to reward his children for doing what HE enabled them to do, for being dependent on HIM.

1 Corinthians 10:13

¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.