How To Endure Tests and Trials

Ken Chapman · James 1:2–15

INTRODUCTION

- We all have suffering, don't we? We all have different levels of trials, of tribulations, of temptations.
- And we need to be sympathetic toward one another in those plights.
- Do not minimize the trials of others or even your own trials that may be trying your faith.

1 Be Optimistic: Count It All Joy

James 1:2–4; 1 Peter 1:6–7

- My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials.
- Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. And let patience have its perfect work that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.
- There's a way in which testing can not just reveal how we are, but that testing can make us who we are.
- We need the hardships of life to make us more grounded, to make us more dependent upon God and maybe our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.
- No one is better equipped to help a fellow brother or sister in Christ than someone who has gone through the same trial themselves.
- Try to find some silver lining in this difficulty. This is making me a better servant of God.

2 Ask God for Help

James 1:5; James 1:17

- If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God who gives to all liberally and without reproach. And it will be given to him.
- Don't ever minimize the power and the benefit of prayer.
- Be honest with your God about the trials you're going through. God already knows the doubts you have.
- Number one is they call upon some particular character of God.
- Talk to God about your fears. Talk to God about your struggles, your trials, even your weaknesses and your sins.

3 Remember the Outcome of Sin

James 1:13–15

- But each one is tempted when he's drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin. And sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death.
- One of the keys to overcoming and enduring temptations and trials is to remember the cost of giving in.
- Don't focus on the trial. Don't focus on the temptation. Look where it leads.
- In the midst of the trials and the temptations of life that may try to beat you down and to overcome you, remind yourself of what's at stake.

- I'll do it because I have to. Because the other alternative is death.

4 Look at the Rewards If We Do Endure

James 1:4; James 1:12

- Go through the hard times. There's no shortcut.
- If you want to be perfect and complete, lacking nothing, go through trials.
- I'll be stronger. I'll be better. I'll be closer to God. I'll be closer to my brethren.
- Blessed is the man who endures temptation, for when he has been proved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those that love him.
- This crown was the crown that would be like a trophy today, or like a gold medal. It was the crown awarded the marathon runner.
- I reckon that the sufferings of our present world are not worthy to be compared to the glory that shall be revealed to us.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **You can overcome whatever test, whatever various trial, whatever temptation life puts before you. If you'll turn to God.**

MY NOTES