The Good & the Bad of Trials

Ken Chapman · James 1:2–15

INTRODUCTION

- Life is complex. It's rarely one way or the other, it's always complicated. There's always good news and bad news.
- And sometimes the good news and the bad news is the same news. And that's true about our spiritual lives as well.
- James is going to tell us that maybe a little bit counterintuitively that there are some good. There's some good to be found in those.

1 Various Trials

James 1:2

- Count it all joy, my brethren. When you fall into various trials.
- They're varied in the sense that they're many. They're not just one and done.
- Jesus was tempted in all points, like as we. He was tempted throughout his life, and we are tempted throughout our life.
- The trials that you face may be different than the trials that I face. Because your weakness or your vulnerabilities may be different than mine.
- Satan doesn't care. He doesn't care what it takes to lure you away from God.

2 The Good: Trials Will Make Us Stronger

James 1:3; 1 Peter 1:6–7

- James would have us to know that the good of trials is that trials will make us stronger.
- Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.
- He doesn't say that it reveals or exposes it produces it.
- The genuineness of your faith being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to the praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- Every test, no matter how big or how small, does two things. It shows me and my God where my faith is, but it's also equipping me for the next test.
- Daniel's whole life has been preparing him for this moment.

3 You Can Endure Them: The Crown of Life

James 1:12

- Here's another good thing about trials is that you can endure them. And when you endure them, there's a tremendous reward.
- Blessed is the man who endures temptation, for when he has been proved, he'll receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love him.

- The one who endures temptation is the same person who loves the Lord.
- Temptation, enduring or overcoming it versus giving in to it, is really all about a choice.
- By passing these tests and enduring these temptations and overcoming these trials, I can grow and grow and grow in my love and appreciation for the Lord.

4 The Bad: They Lead to Death

James 1:13–15

- There's obvious some bad to trials. And James is going to tell us about those as well. They lead to death.
- What doesn't make you stronger kills you. And what we don't overcome and endure will lead to death.
- But each one is tempted when he's drawn away by his own lust and enticed.
- Desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin. And sin when it is full grown brings forth death.
- Giving in leads to death. Again, it's a choice.
- There's an enticement trying to pull me away from life and lead me to death. And so I better be ever vigilant.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Why not come to Him this morning? Devoting your life to Him, saying, God, I love you more than life itself, more than the world, more than sin and temptation can offer.**

MY NOTES