

How To Weather Hardships? – James 1:2-8

Outline By: Mark Knowles 06/01/14 PM

Introduction

1. Remember the bumper sticker: “When life hands you a lemon, make lemonade!”
 - a. It is easier to smile at that statement than practice it. However it is true and biblical to turn our trials and defeats into triumph and victory.
2. The key to turning trials into triumph is obey four imperatives... Count, Know, Let, Ask

I. “Count” It All Joy When Fall Into Various Trials – 1:2

- a. We Will All Experience Trials
 - i. So said Jesus – John 16:33 Paul – Acts 14:22 Peter – 1 Peter 4:12
- b. So What Is To Be Our Response As Christians? – COUNT It All JOY!

II. “Knowing” That The Testing Of Your Faith Produces Patience – 1:3

- a. The Right Knowledge Of The Value Of Our Trials Helps Us To Be Joyful
 - i. Faith is always tested – 1 Peter 1:7
 - ii. And it always works for us, not against us – 2 Corinthians 4:17-18
- b. Specifically, Faith Produces “Patience”
 - i. Notice Romans 5:3-4

III. “Let” Patience Have Its Perfect Work – 1:4

- a. God Cannot Build Character Without Cooperation
 - i. God’s goal for us is maturity and in Ephesians 2:8-10 shows the works involved...
 1. The work God does for us, which is salvation
 2. The work God does in us, for we are His workmanship (sanctification)
 3. The work God does through us – service
 - ii. God builds character before He calls us to service
- b. To Turn Trials Into Victory We Must Let Patience Do Its Work
- c. For When It Does Its Work It Produces “Maturity”

IV. Let Him “Ask” Of God – 1:5-8

- a. If We Lack Wisdom Ask For It From God
 - i. He promised to give it liberally – like he did with Solomon in 1 Kings 3:7-12
- b. What Exactly Is This Wisdom?
- c. The Wisdom To Properly Use Trials And Turn Them Into Triumph

So here is the key to turning trials into triumph...

1. Count – 1:2 your trials as joy
2. Know – 1:3 having an understanding mind
3. Let – 1:4 a surrendered will
4. Ask – 1:5-8 in faith for wisdom