

Endurance Produces Character

10-5-25

James 1:2–4 (ESV)

²Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

⁴And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James serves as a NT book of Proverbs giving us cause and effect understanding of the spiritual world. Here James addresses trials we will face in life. First, trials are not by accident. Even when Satan's schemes are the source, God will turn trials into HIS glory and honor us. Often in these situations, God seems silent, and we may even feel abandoned. But in truth we know God is always at work in all things. Sometimes God uses trial to adjust our theology or teach us the deeper things of God or develop endurance. Always God uses trials to build character. God is good and wants us to embrace HIM and nothing else. Thus, through trials God is glorified and we are honored. Use your own imagination for your own situation.

One may believe God wants them wealthy for their security. False, so God will take away their wealth teaching them to trust solely on HIM. One may believe they should have the greatest job soaring to the top. False, so God will give them job after job with the worst people teaching them to acknowledge their sufficiency on HIM. One may want to serve God with all their heart. Pleased, God will bring the worst of all situations upon them, teaching them to die to self being the servant to others. The full effect of trials is to perfect and complete us so that we do not lacking anything God has for us. **Trials are Holy ground. When we are in a trial we need to stay on the Holy Ground until God finishes HIS work. Never leave Holy ground until God opens a door. You are never called from a trial. At its completion, you are called “to” something. No open door, stay. God is building character.**

Romans 5:3–5 (ESV)

³Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character.

We endure trials because God is molding us. HE is developing character and perseverance develops character. The word rendered “character” indicates tested value. Character = Experience! Endurance produces a walk with God and dependence and trust in God. This is why trials are Holy Ground. Also, this is why we need to be very cautious trying to help others going through trials. They also are standing on Holy Ground, and we don’t want to mess up what God is doing. Trials teach us how to wait on the LORD, and they teach us obedience while we wait.

Isaiah 26:8 (NIV)

LORD, walking in the way of your laws,
we wait for you.

Being obedient involves waiting on the LORD so HE can complete HIS work. We don’t do anything different. We wait until God tells us something different. By being obedient to God in the moment, we are trusting God for the future.

1 Peter 5:6 (ESV)

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you.

God will exalt us at HIS proper time. Not only is God training us to exalt us, BUT HE ALSO is taking care of all the circumstances around us for our benefit and HIS puposes.

Psalms 57:1 (ESV)

In the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,
till the storms of destruction pass by.

Proverbs 10:25 (ESV)

When the tempest passes, the wicked is no more,
but the righteous is established forever.

Our trial is Holy Ground. God is fulfilling HIS purpose for us and when the storm has passed by, all the evil and useless debris will be blown out of our life!

Count it all joy when you meet trials of various kinds, because No trials, no character.

The apostles spoke of Jesus' resurrection with power. They had great grace, but experienced great trials.

Acts 4:33 (ESV)

And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.