

The Journey

2-26-27

James 1:2–4 (ESV)

² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Last week we learned that in all difficulties we have the Holy Spirit and the Grace of God empowering us for the glory of God. In James we see that in our Life Journey, God is teaching us in these trials while at the same time giving us the desire and power to deal with them. All the things that come our way are sifted through the Hands of God. We do not live in a world of random accidents. Therefore we should face these trials with “All Joy” because:

- The testing of our faith – **produces** steadfastness or patience under pressure!
- Full effect of steadfastness (patience under pressure) **leads us toward** being perfect and complete, lacking in nothing!

Consider the various trials in our journey! Let us look at three ways these trials **lead us toward being perfect and complete lacking nothing?**

#1 Perfect and Complete lacking nothing = Muscle Building!

2 Corinthians 1:8 (ESV)

For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened **beyond our strength** that we despaired of life itself.

2 Corinthians 1:9 (ESV)

Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. **But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God** who raises the dead.

❖ **Our Journey teaches us not to rely on ourselves but rely on God!**

#2 Perfect and Complete lacking nothing = Schoolhouse Training!

Hebrews 12:6 (ESV)

For **the Lord disciplines the one he loves**, and chastises every son whom he receives.

Hebrews 12:11 (ESV)

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those **who have been trained by it**.

❖ **Our Journey trains us to produce the fruit of righteousness!**

#3 Perfect and Complete lacking nothing = Battlefield Experience!

1 Peter 5:8 (ESV)

Be sober-minded; be watchful. **Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.**

1 Peter 5:9 (ESV)

Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

1 Peter 5:10 (ESV)

And after you have suffered a little while, the **God of all grace**, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, **will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.**

❖ Our Journey strengthens us through real spiritual battles resulting in God Himself establishing us!

How do we get on the right road for the Journey?

2Cor.5:21 (NASB)

He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Prophetic Team
Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.