

THE NECESSARY ATTITUDE IN TIMES OF TRIAL AND TEMPTATION

James 1:2-4

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: No one said that life was easy and after a few years of living, one finds that life is filled with all kinds of trials and temptations and all sort of evil. One needs a sure-fire way to overcome and be victorious, no matter what the cost might be. James points out the way in his letter.

I. THERE WILL BE MANY TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS (try, test, prove, tempt - "peirasmos-Greek")

1. Temptations and trials are permitted by God but all for a good purpose.
 - To make one more pure, holy, righteous and just.
 - To make one stronger, more steadfast, enduring and persevering.
 - To make one a more dynamic witness to all those around him/her.
2. There will be all kinds of temptations and trials that seem to surround a person.
 - All will be for one's own good and benefit in the long run.
 - They are to help, to prove, to make one stronger.
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:17; Hebrews 12:11; James 5:11; 1 Peter 3:14-15; 4:14; Revelation 7:14

II. JOY IS THE ATTITUDE NEEDED TO GET THROUGH IT ALL

(How can Joy be possible? One has to switch his/her thinking from negative to positive)

1. One has to KNOW something - trials and temptations are NOT meant to defeat or discourage, but the opposite.
2. One must DO something - let patience work within him/herself.
 - Keep on keeping on, never giving up or giving in.
 - Exert the energy and effort to conquer and gain that victory.
3. When one looks at his/her trials and temptations as opportunities, then he/she can begin to face them with joy.
 - 1 Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 2:18; 1 Peter 5:8, 2 Peter 2:9; Revelation 3:10

III. THE RESULTS CAN BE GREAT

(A person becomes more "perfect," mature, fully grown at a particular age.)

1. When one stands and conquers his/her trials and temptations:
 - He/she perfects the purpose God intended.
 - He/she is a little more like Jesus.
 - He/she perfects his/her task and purpose for being in the world, just a little more.
(God intends for each person to become more like Jesus and to do a specific task or job while alive.)
2. One becomes more and more complete in all areas.
 - More fit, sound, less weaknesses, flaws, defects and shortcomings.
 - More entire, more fit, more complete.
 - Eliminates more weaknesses, more flaws.
 - Day by day becomes stronger, more pure and righteous and more entire.

- Lacking nothing, wanting nothing, having all abundance and fulness of life.
- Romans 16:20; Matthew 5:48; Luke 21:19; Romans 12:12; 2 Corinthians 13:11

CONCLUSION:

1. Everybody has trials, temptations and difficulties.
2. Everybody fights, cries, worries, even gives up at times when troubles come.
3. God intends for His family to benefit from those very things.
4. God has given His family the SECRET to having JOY when those things come.
5. God's family KNOWS something nobody else knows.
6. God's family knows what to DO when those times come.
7. Each member of God's family must learn how to have the JOY God wants him/her to have.