

WHAT TO DO WHEN THINGS GET TOUGH

James 1:5-12

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: No doubt sooner or later trials and temptations are going to come and some will come with tremendous force: pain, lust, disease, divorce, loss, hurt, sickness, separation, death, disappointments, anger, loneliness and many more. How in the world does a person handle all the tough things in his/her life? Is there some way to be immune? To escape? To overcome? A way to be certain of victory and success? Just what does a Christian do when things get tough?

I. THE FIRST THING TO DO IS TO GO TO GOD AND ASK FOR WISDOM

1. Wisdom is more than just knowing facts for there are many types of schools for different ages teaching many different things and from schools one gains wisdom.
 - Countless people are knowledgeable but fail when difficulties come.
2. Wisdom sees and knows what to do with the truth, the facts.
 - Wisdom sees trials, temptations, difficulties and hard times but also knows what to do when they come.
 - Any Christian who lacks wisdom, who just doesn't understand what is happening, he/she is to go to God.
 - James 1:5
 - God will give plenty of wisdom to those who ask in faith.
 - God loves His Children and wants to meet each one's every need.
 - Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 21:15; Romans 11:33; 2 Timothy 3:15; James 1:5; 3:17
3. For God to answer the believer's prayer for wisdom, the believer must ask in steady unshakeable faith.
 - One cannot have any doubts or questions as to whether God can or will answer his prayer.
 - Doubting prayers will not be heard by God for it would be "rewarding" those who doubt, ignore, neglect, question or even deny and fight against Him.
 - One must believe that God is, that He loves and cares for His Children and will hear and answer their prayers when they face tough times.
 - Any person with wavering faith:
 - is like a person on a tossing wave in the ocean, up and down, to and fro.
 - will not receive anything from the Lord.
 - is really a double-minded person and unstable.
 - When facing trials, temptations and difficulties in life, one must ask God for wisdom, while at the same time believing that God will hear and show the way and give the power to handle the difficulty.
 - Matthew 13:58; Mark 4:40; Luke 16:13; Hebrews 4:11; James 1:8; 4:8

II. THE BELIEVER NEEDS TO ACCEPT HIS/HER STATUS (POSITION) IN LIFE

1. Those who are not very well off, perhaps unhealthy or even crippled are to accept their current place in life despite the additional difficulties and hardships that still happen.
 - One's position in society (life) should not affect his/her relationship with the Lord.
 - Luke 19:17; 22:28; 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 1:5-6
 - For countless poor and unhealthy they just cannot accept their present condition.
 - The circumstances affects their spirit and joy in daily living.
 - They become bitter against those who have more and often try to take away from those who have more.

- A sense of inferiority and inadequacy often causes withdrawal from relationships.
 - Every person on earth who is in a low position or ill health needs to work at improving his/her relationship with others and never forget God and where their Salvation came from.
 - A strong spirit can be developed with the wisdom of God and trials and difficulties can still be overcome.
2. Those who are well off, rich or have a high status in life are to be glad that the Lord has made them low.
 - Nobody is accepted by God because of who or what he/she is.
 - Earthly status doesn't mean anything to God.
 - Everybody has the same privilege of going to God when in need.
 - A plus for the wealthy and those of high influence is that they can help those who are in need, sick, homeless and dying.
 - Christians are not to be selfish, refusing to help meet the needs of others, whatever the need may be.
 - James 1:10-11; 4:14; 1 Peter 1:24

III. REMEMBERING THE REWARD FOR ENDURING HELPS ONE GET THROUGH HARD TIMES

1. Those who make it through (endure) their trials, temptations and hardships will be blessed during their lives.
 - There will come an inward and spiritual joy, satisfaction, assurance and confidence that enables one to face even more difficult times.
 - Making it through hard times reminds one that God is with him/her in all things.
 - Luke 6:48; James 5:11
2. Those making it through hard times will be given a "crown of life."
 - Eternal life that goes on and on, never ending will be given to the believer in Jesus.
 - One will be filled with unbroken joy and rejoicing.
 - Honor and dignity will be bestowed upon the believer.
 - There will be a deep and perfect sense of victory and triumph.
 - One will be conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - John 14:1-2; 2 Corinthians 4:17; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Peter 4:12-13; 1 John 2:25
3. Those who endure trials and temptations will be eternally blessed.
 - One must endure, persevere, be steadfast and stand fast.
 - One will have been tested and tried, proving his/her faithfulness when his/her life here is over.
 - Matthew 10:22; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 6:9; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:13; 2:19; Revelation 3:11
4. The person who loves the Lord Jesus is the one who will endure, overcome and make it through all the difficulties, trials, temptations and hardships for he/she will also be faithful, obeying and following and doing what the Lord commands.
 - John 14:21; 15:10, 14; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 5:8; Revelation 3:10

CONCLUSION:

1. Every person at one time or other will face difficulties, hardships and temptations.
2. Whether a person makes it through all the hardships of life depends upon his/her relation with God.
3. No matter what one's social standing, health condition, financial situation, each person is loved equally by God.
4. There awaits for the believer eternal life, a crown, a heavenly place, and countless blessings from God.
5. No matter what life throws at a Christian, he/she can be victorious and benefit as long as that Christian keeps his/her eyes on the Lord and does what the Lord says to do.

