

WHY SO MANY TRIALS AND DIFFICULTIES IN LIFE?

James 1:2-4

Introduction: One would think that once a person accepts Jesus Christ as his/her Savior that all would be so much better, however things seem to get worse, for difficulties and trials seem to increase and there are times when life is so difficult to live as a Christian that one wants to just "give up" and go back to being like the rest of the world who don't seem to have near the troubles and difficulties. So, why so many trials in life for the Christian?

I. TRIALS AND DIFFICULTIES TESTS ONE'S FAITH

1. Faith is the foundation of the Christian's life.
 - It is by faith that one clings to God.
 - It is by trials and tests of one's faith that tests the foundation of what one believes and hopes in.
 - Nothing is so needful for the Christian than to be sure of his/her faith.
2. The word "trial" is used in the testing of metals.
 - Ore is tested by fire, melted, all impurities taken away.
 - Trial is the fire in which God tests one's faith, that it may be without impurities.
 - After the trial, one's faith will come out more pure.
 - The well-rooted tree, when tossed by a storm only sends its roots deeper into the ground.
 - God tested Abraham's faith and that test must have torn Abraham's heart, but when the trial/test was over, God knew that Abraham was over. (offering his son as a sacrifice).
3. So it always is. Trials, tests purifies and strengthens one's faith.
 - When a person comes through the fire/test/trial through his/her trust in God, knowing that without his/her faith, he/she would have been broken, he/she learns to trust God more.
 - Where there has been little testing/trials, there has been little exercise of faith, little to bring out the quality and strength of one's faith, and one does not know what he/she can bear.
 - One never knows what he/she can bear until he/she is tried/tested and calls for one's faith.
 - The strain caused by some unexpected calamity can reveal defects which otherwise would have never been discovered and enables the strengthening of one's faith.
4. It was learned long ago that experience is the best teacher and that often through some sharp and abrupt turn in the road, when faith is tested, comes a lesson that needs to be learned.

II. TRIALS AND DIFFICULTIES BRING PATIENCE AND ENDURANCE

1. "Patience" is a word that James uses often and he emphasizes how necessary it is in ordinary life.
 - *"...Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it, until it receives the early and later rain. Be ye also patient, stablish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand..."*
 - The word "patience" means persevering endurance, bearing up under trial and not giving away, continuing to endure in the hope and belief that the believer is in God's hands, waiting in calmness upon God's will.

-It is a hopeful, believing persistency, endurance. It is bearing up under one's load and continuing one's journey in spite of it, shouldering one's burdens with thankfulness.

2. Trials and difficulties test faith. They prove whether one's faith is strong and genuine, but does more:
 - It is a continuous process for as soon as one trial is over, another takes its place.
 - One trial may test one's faith, but it takes many to develop "endurance."
 - The strongest are those who (we say) have come through the most. Their unshaken faith, trust is the result of many trials and testings which they have bravely endured until finally, through much tribulation, they have become "perfect" and entire.

III. TRIALS AND DIFFICULTIES FINALLY CAN BRING "PERFECTION"

Jesus said, "*...He that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved...*" "*Be ye perfect...*"

1. James explains that it is not enough to just go enduring for a period of time.
 - If one ever gave way after suffering, then any/all good that might have been gained will be lost
 - Dark days, hard tasks, terrible trials, persistency of difficulties are in fact, proofs that God is working out His great purpose in one's life and eventually, one will be perfect and entire, lacking in nothing.
 - Trials in themselves can be bitter and even hateful, but they are not to be judged by themselves, for they are part of the process whereby God is making one mature.
2. "Perfect" and "Entire" are not the same.
 - "Perfect" means full-grown, mature in character and understanding, no longer a child but having all the characteristics and possessions of a full grown Christian.
 - "Entire" means having all that should belong to a believer. Soundness of one's faculties and powers. Peter healed a man and it was said that the man was then "entire" in every part.
 - God's aim is nothing less, that ever believer should be full-grown in spiritual attainment and developed in all faculties and having everything that should belong to him/her.
 - Parents want their children to have a "well-rounded education," body and mind fully developed.
 - God's design for His Children is a many-sided, well-rounded training and will so train His Children with no part neglected.

CONCLUSION:

1. Do you get worried when one trouble after another falls upon you and you are constantly going to God for help? Remember, it's God's way of testing your faith and eventually bringing you to become perfect and entire, lacking in nothing.
2. There is only one way of turning your troubles to good and making them serve the end for which God has designed them: You can face them, not flinching, standing in the Lord's strength and you can accept them as God's divine instruments of discipline intended to shape you into what God wants you to be.
3. With infinite wisdom God puts His hand upon His Children (us) here and there, testing in this way and that in order that, His Children (us) become full grown and entire in every part, lacking in nothing that belongs to God's idea of what His Children should be.