

## Fruitful Trials 2017-10-15

### James 1:2-4

*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 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.*

Trials are the universal experience of every Christian....death, infidelity, job loss, illness.

- Not always the consequence of disobedience but they always test our faith.
  - You do not have joy in trials until you understand fruit they produce  
James 1:2-4, Proverbs 24:10

“Count/consider”...think about trial from biblical not emotional perspective.

- WE KNOW trials are designed by sovereign Lord to produce spiritual toughness and maturity so we become perfect and complete. That’s wonderful!
  - “perfect” is not sinless perfection or perfect maturity but ^Christ-likeness.
- Each trial makes us stronger for the next trial (Prep for 5K) but also meant to bring us to the end of ourselves and dependent upon God’s generous grace.
  - Trials reveal need, weakness, sin and drive us humbly to Lord for help.  
Yeah!
    - In trials find time for QT. “good” days can’t squeeze QT in.

Trials cause us to cry out to God to supply what we severely lack....wisdom! 1:4-8

- Wisdom is looking at life from God's perspective which enables Christians to believe God's word and trust Him when “why” is not answered. WWJD
  - Wisdom is a person, Jesus Christ – the ultimate source of everything wise, true.

Doubt (lack of faith) keeps us from divine wisdom/ endurance, not from deliverance!

- Not intellectual/theological doubt but torn between 2 choices.
  - Want goals/desires of this world & Kingdom of God at the same time.
    - It’s “double-minded,” literally “2 souled.” only 2x in New Testament...James 4:8
- Jesus Christ was solely Kingdom of God minded; able to put trials in eternal perspective and resulted in stability, steadiness in midst of trials. Luke 22:42, Hebrews 12:2

James illustrates principle of single mindedness with wealth/poverty. James 1:9-12, Matthew 6:24.

- It is not wrong to have things; the issue here is being ruled by them (idolatry) which will lead to double-mindedness.
- Both poor/rich should live single-mindedly for Kingdom of God, not worldly or selfishly.
  - The poor boast because they are rich in what eternally matters....Jesus Christ. Luke 6:20
    - Jesus + nothing = Everything, Everything – Jesus = Nothing

- Rich also glories in God's grace for him and promised inheritance of true wealth (crown of life) at his death (humiliation). Philippians 1:21, Luke 16:11

- Both plenty/lack are trials designed to grow us spiritually.

In trials, we are tempted to think/act in sinful manner. James 1:13-15, Mark 7:21-23

- We question God's purposes/goodness/wisdom/love and become impatient, angry, envy.
  - "If I sin, it's sovereign God's fault, He led me into tempt" = double-minded.
    - God tests but never tempts anyone with evil. Evil is within us.
- God is not the source of any temptation/evil, but source of every truly good gift, which includes trials, that He graciously gives to "perfect you". James 1:16-18, 12

Trials are not sign of God's unfaithfulness/inattention but His transforming love/grace.

- Designed by Lord to produce spiritual maturity, make us more like Jesus.
  - Reveal weakness/need and cause us to ask/receive Lord's wisdom/strength.
- Because of Jesus, you can be Kingdom of God single-minded, trust in the Father and His promises and receive wisdom (God's eternal perspective) in midst of your trials.
  - Fruit will be joy in trials as embrace His sanctifying/perfecting work in them.