



#2 Real Faith Perseveres

James 1:2 (NIV) Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. ⁹ The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. ¹⁰ But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. ¹¹ For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business. ¹² Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

A trial is an unpleasant circumstance that enters our lives, allowed by God to grow true faith and reveal false faith.

Trials are:

- 1) Inevitable— “whenever you face trials.”
- 2) Often unexpected— “whenever you face trials.”
- 3) Diverse — “trials of many kinds.”
- 4) Tests of faith (v.3)

—ARE YOUR TRIALS MAKING YOU BITTER OR BETTER?—

1. HAVE THE RIGHT ATTITUDE: Pure Joy!

James 1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds

2. HAVE THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE: Trials Are Necessary For Spiritual Growth

3. HAVE THE RIGHT GOAL: Maturity In Christ!

James 1:4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

4. HAVE THE RIGHT RESPONSE ...

A. Pray For WISDOM

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt...

B. Take Pride In GOD'S WORKING

James 1:9 The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. ¹⁰ But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. ¹¹ For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.

C. PERSEVERE

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial ...

D. Look Past The Trial To FUTURE BLESSING

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

*Troubles may come and troubles may go,
But it matters not how the gales blow,
For it's not the gale, but the set of your sail,
That determines the way that you go.*