



## Bitter or Better?

Cooperating with God During Difficult Times

**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.

**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.

**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.

**A trial is an unpleasant circumstance that enters our lives, allowed by God in order to *GROW US UP!***

### 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)

## COOPERATING WITH GOD TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR TRIALS

1. **HAVE THE RIGHT ATTITUDE: Pure \_\_\_\_\_!**  
*James 1:2* Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds ...
2. **HAVE THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE: Trials are \_\_\_\_\_ for Growth**  
*James 1:3* ...because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.
3. **HAVE THE RIGHT GOAL: \_\_\_\_\_ 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 ...**

PRAY for \_\_\_\_\_ 1:5

TAKE PRIDE in How \_\_\_\_\_ is Working in Your Life (1:9-11)

\_\_\_\_\_ 1:12

LOOK PAST the Trial to \_\_\_\_\_ 1:12

*It will be worth it all, when we see Jesus.  
Life's trials will seem so small, when we see Christ.  
One glimpse of His dear face, all sorrow will erase,  
So bravely run the race, til we see Christ.*