

THE WAY TO *THINK*

WHEN TROUBLES COME

Wednesday 'RECHARGE' – May 8, 2024 – Pastor Ben Nistor

James 1:2–4

English Standard Version (ESV)

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 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.

REVIEW

- Two weeks ago: 'When Troubles Come' – John 16:33
- Last week: 'The Way to PRAY When Troubles Come' – Psalm 56:3
'When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.'
- TODAY: 'The Way to THINK When Troubles Come' – James 1:2–4

'THE BOOK OF JAMES' BACKGROUND

- Author -- 'James, the brother of Jesus' (technically a half-brother) senior pastor of the church in Jerusalem – See Acts 15; cf. Acts 21:17–26
- Date -- in the mid-40s (about 10-15 years after Jesus' ministry). Most likely the first NT book written.
- Audience -- 'To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion' Jewish-Christians spread throughout the Roman world.
- Several Themes – Test your faith! Don't be self-deceived. Here is what real belief in Jesus looks like.

BRIEF OBSERVATIONS

James 1:2

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

various kinds = ποικίλοις *poikilos*: diverse, different colors, variegated

1 Peter 1:6 -- *all kinds of trials*

trials = *peirasmos* : to put someone to the test.

Here, it does not mean solicitation to evil (temptation)

- These trials are ultimately tests of our faith.
- Tests of faith result in either passing or failing.
- When we pass the test it remains a trial.
- When we fail the test it becomes a temptation.

Romans 14:23 *'Whatever is not from faith is sin.'*

A genuine trust in Christ will result in a transformed life.

Genuine salvation is revealed by a Christ-centered life.

A false trust in Christ is seen in an unchanged life.

An unchanged life reveals an unregenerate heart.

WHEN I FACE TRIALS I THINK ABOUT _____.

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 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.

1) When we face trials, we must think – v 2: ‘Count it’

2) When we face trials, we must think about rejoicing – v 2: ‘all joy’

- The phrase ‘*count it all joy*’ is about intensity (‘pure joy’) rather than exclusivity (‘nothing but joy’).
- James is not suggesting that we should have no other response other than joy.
- When we face trials, we should rejoice.

Why?? Think about it ... will we grow if we’re not tried?

Romans 5:1–5

*Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, **knowing** that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

3) When we face trials, we must think as Christians – v 2: ‘my brothers’

- James addresses these Christians as ‘my brothers’ (James 2:1, 14; 3:1, 10, 12; 5:12, 19)

1 Peter 4:12

***Beloved**, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.*

1 John 3:13

*Do not be surprised, **brothers**, that the world hates you.*

4) When we face trials, we must think about the purpose of trials – v 3: ‘for you know’

- We need to gain a proper biblical perspective on trials and trouble / pain and suffering.
- We need informed minds with faith-filled hearts.

CREATION FALL REDEMPTION GLORY

5) When we face trials, we must think about our faith – v 3: ‘the testing of your faith’

- The difficulties we face are meant to refine us like silver or gold (see 1 Peter 1:6–9)

6) When we face trials, we must think about the immediate result of trials – v 3: ‘produces steadfastness’

- From **hupomoné**, or ‘remaining under’ – the picture is of a person who carries a burden successfully for a lengthy period of time.

7) When we face trials, we must think about the final goal of tested faith – v 4: ‘let steadfastness have its full effect’

- The goal of true Christian faith is God himself (Matthew 5:48)