

Pastor Calvin D. Williams

9/11/2024

1. How many of you have dealt with Adversity?

- James **(chapter 1)** deals with the way the Christian should handle adversity.
- This letter was written during a very critical transitional period in the history of the church.
- This lesson may also come at a very critical transition time in your life as a Christian.

2. What happens when we misunderstand the word of God?

- There are false assumptions held by many.
- God will *curse* you with *problems for* doing *evil.*
- God *will* bless *you with good* fortune *for* doing good.

3. How is your Christian Attitude?

- James is going to give a very different perspective on the Christian's attitude toward adversity.

- We are Christian brothers and sisters; not by blood, nor by national origin but by the faith in Jesus Christ-those who are *"born* again"; "When", not if you fall into but, "*when you fall into*". Life, especially that of a Christian, will bring you into times of testing.

First. James is *telling us* to expect *adversity* as *the rule*, *rather than* the *exception*.

4. What would be the benefit of the attitude of expecting test? *If you know there will* be *a test....*

(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.*

Second, *James informs us that these trials will come in many different* forms - "**all sorts of trials**"

5. DICUSSION

- What are some examples of temptations you may encounter in your efforts to live a Christian life?
- What is the difference between *test of faith* and *temptation to sin*?

6. What is Adversity?

- ❖ Adversity is like a stress test, pushing us up to and beyond our limits, so that we will recognize our dependence on God, and call on Him for help in the time of trouble.

- ❖ Adversity is designed to produce endurance in our lives. And this endurance perfects us, so that we will become complete, lacking nothing.

7. Three things to do in trying times:

1. Count it all joy-take into consideration the benefits.

2. Know the benefits-faith tested is producing endurance.

3. Endurance is preparing you for blessing-God is trying to complete something in you.

8. The Benefits of the Struggle

(Verse 4) But endurance must do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

- So many people think of themselves as okay, except for their sin.
- Some admit that they need Jesus to forgive their sins, but they feel that the rest of their life does not need any radical change.
- When we think that we are sufficient in and of ourselves, we deceive ourselves.
- God brings adversity into our lives to show us our deficiencies, and as we see these deficiencies, we realize that we must cry out to God to supply what we lack.

Let's Think About It!

9. In your opinion, what understanding can we get from this verse?

- According to the verse what is the purpose of endurance (patience)?
- We tend to leave our situation too early.
- God is answering your prayers through the struggle even when it does not seem to be working out.

10. How will you know if you leave before it is complete?

11. What have you abandoned? *relationship*, *job*, *program*, investment, *friendship*, treatment, training-before you knew the complete outcome?

12. REFLECTION

What current struggle are you facing that you feel like giving up?

What can you take from this lesson to help you?

(Verse 5) encourages us to ask God for wisdom. Why?

- We need wisdom to rightly assess our situation and to determine our response to it. At times like this, we need divine wisdom, which we do not possess within ourselves.
- In our prayer for wisdom not only that God will answer our prayer, but He will do so without shaming or humiliating us. God delights in the fact that we express our dependence on Him.

13. Do you Waver between decisions?

***(Verse* 6)** "**Double Dribble'**

- James sets down only one condition- that we pray in faith, without wavering.

- To waver is to wrestle between two decisions. You decide to take the shot-a tall defender jumps in front of you after you have picked the up the ball, you get concerned and make another decision to dribble again-Double Dribble!

Are you wrestling between two decisions? to leave or stay, to work or quit, to do or don't, do-one minute you will, the next you won't.

14. ARE YOU A STABLE DECISION MAKER?

- Faith shows itself in stability, steadiness in the midst of life's storms.
- The one who lacks faith bounces from here to there, blown about by the winds of adversity.

Conclusion:

To resist and detest *adversity is to resist* the *cleansing and perfecting work of God in our lives*. *To rejoice is to embrace His perfecting work in us.*