

Talk Is Cheap! Putting Our Faith Into Action

Real Faith Isn't Troubled by Troubles

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.
James 1:1 (NIV)

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. **James 1:2-5 (NLT)**

God's Truth About Troubles

A. Troubles Are INEVITABLE

"when troubles of any kind come your way," **James 1:2b**

B. Troubles Are UNPREDICTABLE

"when troubles of any kind come your way," **James 1:2b**

C. Troubles Can Be PURPOSEFUL

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

Romans 5:3-4 (NLT)

God's Purposes for My Problems

- **Problems TEST MY FAITH**

When your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.

- **Problems DEVELOP MY ENDURANCE**

Problems and trials help us develop endurance.

- **Problems MATURE MY CHARACTER**

...when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. James 1:4 (NLT)

*Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be **mature** and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:4 (NIV)*

...endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.

Romans 5:4 (NLT)

How to Tackle Troubles God's Way

1. Ask God for WISDOM.

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. James 1:5a (NLT)

2. Trust that God's way is the best response.

But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do. James 1:6-8 (NLT)

3. Act on the guidance God's Word gives.

...humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves... if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it. Excerpts: James 2:21-25 (NLT)

4. Rejoice IN the results God gives.

...when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy James 1:2 (NLT)

- Don't rejoice FOR your troubles & problems, but rejoice IN them.
- We know that God can bring good out of bad!

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. **Romans 8:28 (NLT)**