

James 1:4 – Triumph Through Trouble- 2

The Means of Perseverance

The believer will face difficult circumstances in life. The question is not if one will face problems, but how will one respond. Our response will be an outward declaration to our inner faith and dependence upon God. James gives help and encouragement to the Christian facing trials so that they will be able to stand fast to the glory of Christ.

Last week we looked at:

- A. Having a Joyful Attitude
- B. Having an Understanding Mind

James 1:2-8

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

A Submissive Will

James 1:4

But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

The only way out of a trial is to pass through it. God promises no shortcuts. God can only do His perfect and entire work in us when we become submissive. When we learn to rejoice in our trials, we will come to understand that our Father uses them to strengthen and perfect us.

A Submissive Will

James 1:4

But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

The word “**perfect**” does not mean moral or spiritual perfection or sinlessness. Rather, it speaks of being fully developed. It refers to being “**mature**”. This is referring to spiritual maturity fulfilled in Christlikeness. This is the goal of enduring trial.

A Submissive Will

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“**Entire**” speaks of being **whole or complete**. To avoid misunderstanding, James adds, “**lacking nothing**”. The end of a trial should result in maturity, completeness, and lacking nothing of spiritual importance.

1 Peter 5:10

But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*.

A Submissive Will

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The Father wants to recreate you into the image of His Son. When trials come, you must make a choice.

You can choose to trust God or fight your circumstances. Israel grumbled and complained at their trial in the wilderness. God took their complaining as rebellion and was forced to discipline Israel again and again.

A Submissive Will

James 1:4

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By complaining we declare that we really do not believe that God is good and in control of our situation. Though God desires to work good in our lives, He will not do His perfect work as long as we rebel and refuse to turn to Him. As we surrender, God is free to work His complete transformation in our lives.

So What ...

There is a cure for the double-minded man. He must become single minded. He must place his trust in Christ, regardless of how he feels or what he sees. He must come and meditate upon who God is, what He has done in the past, and that He is willing and able to work in our lives in the present. He must let the things of this world be stripped away and as Martin Luther, he must take his stand upon the Word of God, for he can do no other.