

Patience in Times of Adversity



James 5:7-11

- We started a Series “Anchored Through Adversity.”
 - Purpose – to teach us how to overcome the tests and trials while remaining anchored in Jesus Christ and His promises.
 - Goal – to strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ so that we don’t lose hope in times of adversity.
- The Lessons Learned:
 - What does the word “adversity” mean?
 - A state of hardship, difficulty, affliction, misfortune, or tragedy that one deal with in life.
 - It is true that one of the best tests of a believer’s maturity is trials and tribulations. (James 1:2-4)
 - Tests and trials also help strengthen our faith and develop Christian character in us.
 - 1. The Joy in Times of Adversity (James 1:2-4, Hebrews 12:1-3)
 - James use the word “count” or another way to put is to consider is a great joy when you experience various trials...
 - The Greek word for “joy” means joyful, cheerful, gladness, or to rejoice.
 - 2. Trusting God in Times of Adversity (Proverbs 3:5-7)
 - Trust is the single most important factor in any relationship. If you don’t have trust you don’t have much of a relationship.
 - Trusting in God is more than words we say, it’s about believing who God is and what God says in His Word.
 - What does it mean to “trust” God?
 1. The Hebrew meaning for the word “trust” means to lie down on or to put your entire weight on something.
 2. The word “trust” means to believe in the reliability, truth, ability and strength of someone or something.
 - It means to be confident in; to depend on, to hope in, be secure, to rely on or the truth of.
 - It means to believe confidently in the ability, character, integrity and trustworthiness of a person.

- Trusting God and His Word means believing in His Name, His reliability, His Word, His ability to keep His promises and His presence and power working on my behalf.
3. Growing in Times of Adversity. (James 1:2-4)
- One vital element of tests and trials is our response to them. (James 1:2-4)
 - God will test our heart and teach the heart during a season of growth in our lives.
 - God will use every test and trial to prepare us for our next assignment. If we don't pass God's test, we have to retake it again.
 - God will use every test and trial in order to refine us and define Himself to us, so that Christ can be reflected in us and through us. (1 Peter 1:6-9)
 - Tests and trials not only reveal character, but they can also help develop character in us.
 - The question for every believer will be our response toward adversity. "It will either make you or break you."
 - The Holy Spirit can use every adverse situation that we face in this life to develop Christ's character in our lives.

Patience in Times of Adversity

James 5:7-11-4

- As a reminder, we share with you that trials and tribulations come with their own unique set of challenges.
- The joy is that every believer can live an overcoming life in Jesus Christ.
- Every believer can have a wonderful journey in the Lord in spite of suffering, persecution, and trials of life.

A. Apostle James teaches us how believers can live victoriously no matter how disruptive and challenging life's trials can be. (James 5:7-11)

1. The believer must be patient. (vs. 7)

- The word "patience" means longsuffering, bearing and suffering a long time, persevering, being constant, steadfast, and enduring.
 - This type of "patience" is a necessary requirement for all believers no matter the test, trial, temptation or tribulation.
 - This type of "patience" is the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. (Galatians 5:22-23)
 - The Holy Spirit stirs the heart of the believer to continue patiently and steadfastly in times of adversity.
 - The Holy Spirit strengthens the heart of the believer to continue trusting and believing that the will of God would be done and victory shall be won.
 - The Holy Spirit is the guarantee of the eternal promises of God for every true believer. (Ephesians 1:14)
 - The Holy Spirit empowers believers to victory and not defeat. The believer walks patiently and humbly before the Lord as the Holy Spirit dismantles every plot and plan of the enemy.
- 2. The believer must be patient, persevere or have spiritual endurance through persecution, trials, and suffering.**
- 3. The believer is encouraged to remain patient. God will be our help and strength during these times of adversity. (Psalm 46:1)**
- 4. What the believer needs to know in this season of growth and what God expects of them.**
- God always operates according to His Sovereign will and not ours. (Isaiah 55:8-9, 11)
 - God is not obligated to do anything outside of His perfect timing.
 - God will never violate His word.

B. How can believers endure patiently in times of adversity?

1. By keeping their eyes fixed on Jesus Christ until His return. (vs. 7)

- Paul has a clear message for Timothy and every true believer of Jesus Christ. (2 Timothy 2:1-4)

- a) A good soldier of Jesus Christ is not attracted and distracted by the cares of life in this present world.
- b) A good soldier of Jesus Christ is not preoccupied nor entangled by the riches and pleasures in the world. (Mark 8:35-37)
- c) A good soldier of Jesus Christ is completely focused on doing the will of God and pleasing Him who called us.
 - Apostle John warns us against being drawn into the cares of this world, because of the affect it can have on the believer's life. (1 John 2:15-17)
 1. Satan is the god of this world system. He is actively at work influencing the systems of this world through lies and deceit. (1 John 5:19)
 2. Apostle John reminds us that this world and all that it contains is temporary and will pass away. But those who do the will of God, will abide (dwell, live, remain) with Him forever. (1 John 2:17)
 3. The work of Christ should never cease in your life and neither should your spiritual health suffer.
 4. Let us remain alert and prepared by not allowing ourselves to be distracted and lured away by the things of this world.
 5. God's Word encourages every believer to work their garden no matter how big or small it may be. We should bring it to a much better state. (Genesis 2:15)
 6. Be faithful unto the Lord and serve Him wholeheartedly both in season and out of season; through the good times and the worst of times. (2 Timothy 4:2, James 2:17-20, 2 Thessalonians 3:10-11)
 7. God's favor is firmly attached to His work in the believer's life. (Psalm 90:17, Proverbs 16:3, Proverbs 18:16)