

Embracing Patience as A Disciple of Jesus Christ



James 1:2-8, 2 Timothy 3:10-17

- This passage of Scripture is a reminder that every true disciple will be tested by many trials, tribulations and temptations in this life. (James 1:2-8, John 16:33, 2 Timothy 3:12-13, Matthew 6:31-33)
 - Purpose: To assist us in our continual growth and develop while enduring the test and trials of this life as Christ disciples.
 - Goal: To encourage every disciple of Jesus Christ to finish the ministry work of Christ.
 - Spiritual Principles: Authority, Grace, Obedience, Stewardship, Faith, Agreement
- Notice James declares, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials.” (vs. 2)
 1. An attitude of joy or a spirit of joy. (1 Peter 1:3-9)
 - The statement is true, “Your attitude will determine your altitude.”
 2. A disciple of Christ can have an attitude of “joy or a spirit of joy” when facing all forms of trials, suffering, and pain.
 - There are Three Things a Disciple must understand and remember:
 1. Being a disciple of Christ doesn’t mean we are exempt from all forms of trials and temptation. (John 16:33)
 2. Being a disciple of Christ don’t mean we are joyful over the negatives things that are happening in our lives.
 3. Being a disciple of Christ do mean to “count it all joy or consider it a great joy” is a choice. (vs. 2) (Psalms 5:11-12, 34:1-3, Romans 15:13)
 - We choose to rejoice in the Lord and trust His abiding presence to fill our lives with joy and peace in all situations. (Nehemiah 8:10, Psalm 16:11)
 - We choose to focus on the Lord. (Psalm 121:1-8, Hebrews 12:1-2)
 - We choose to put our faith and trust in the Source and Sustainer of life, which is The Lord God Almighty. (Proverbs 3:5-7, Psalm 37:1-11)
 - 3. A disciple of Christ should maintain a good attitude toward God and their trials. (2 Corinthians 3:18, 2 Corinthians 4:17, Hebrews 12:11, 1 Peter 3:14-15, Job 23:10)

- There are Five (5) ways God uses trials and temptation for his purposes and our benefit.
 1. To develop Christ's character in us. (Matthew 7:18, 20, Galatians 5:22-23, Job 23:10, 1 Corinthians 15:33)
 2. To grow and develop us spiritually. (2 Corinthians 4:15-18, 2 Peter 3:17-18)
 3. To transform and conform us into Christ's image and likeness. (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)
 4. To expose our weakness and strengthen our faith in Him. (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
 5. To develop us into an effective witness for Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 3:14-15)
 - God uses all forms of trials and temptations to test us, prove us, strengthen us, develop us, purify us, and to make us more and more like Jesus Christ.
 - God requires Christ's disciples to develop through various trials. (James 1:2-3)
 - (vs. 2) – “when you fall into various trials...”
 - a. The word “various” means all forms, all sorts of or different kinds of.
 - b. The Greek word “trials or temptations” means to try, to test, or to prove.
 - c. There are different forms of trials which can be spiritual, physical, mental, emotional, relational, and financial.
 - Christ's disciples can overcome various trials by the process of three things. (vs. 3, James 1:21-22)
 1. Knowing something.
 2. Doing something.
 3. Becoming something.
 - (vs. 3) – “knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”
 - a. The word “patience” means endurance, perseverance, and to be steadfast.
 - b. The word “produces” is plural and not singular.
 - c. The word “produces” means to bring about, working toward something, to developed into something or build toward something.

- The results of “patience” is Christ’s character being built and develop in our lives.
- The product of “patience” is spiritual fruit. The producer of the fruit is the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22)

1. Requires “Knowing” something. (vs. 3)

- True disciples must “know” their faith in Jesus Christ will be put on trial. (Galatians 6:9)
- True disciples must “know” God is faithful to His Word and promises. (Hebrews 10:23, Psalms 27:13-14, Isaiah 55:11)
- True disciples must “know” that every test and temptation will be used to strengthened our faith in Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 10:13, Isaiah 40:28-31, 43:1-3)

2. Requires “Doing” something. (vs. 4)

- (vs. 4) “But let “patience” have its perfect work...”
- The word “perfect” means mature, fully developed, fully fit, growth.
- When a disciple is spiritually mature he is able to endure and persevere through the trials and temptations of life.

3. Requires “Becoming” something. (vs. 4)

- (vs. 4) - “that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”
- The word “complete” means perfectly sound and spiritually fit.
- The disciple becomes more complete, more perfectly sound, more spiritually fit.
- When the pressures of life and the weight of trials and temptation arise we purposefully press into God and His Word.
- The disciple becomes spiritually mature, fit, complete by hearing the Word, applying the Word which leads to them becoming the Word. (2Corinthians 3:1-6)

○ What is God’s purpose in every trial and temptation?

1. The disciple will become more and more like Jesus Christ.
2. The disciple will allow God to work through every test and trial in his life.

3. The disciple will grow-up spiritually so that the ministry work of Jesus Christ will be accomplished throughout the world.

4. The disciple will not lack anything.

○ **What does “lacking nothing” mean?**

1. The disciple lives and dwells in the over-flow of God. (Psalms 1:1-3, 91:1-2)

2. The disciple lives an overcoming life. (Romans 8:37, Philippians 4:12-13)

3. The disciple walks through life conquering and triumphing over all the trials of life. (Psalm 23:1-6, John 14:27, Philippians 4:6-7)

4. The disciple’s joy is complete and fulfilled through Jesus Christ (John 15:5-11, Hebrews 10:36, 1 Peter 1:8).