

James (Lesson 2)

TEXT: James 1:2-4

INTRO: "What may look hopeless or impossible to us never looks that way to God!"
Life Application Bible Commentary

I. (vs. 2) The Inevitable
A. *My brethren*

NOTE: "James readers were Jewish Christians who had been dispersed throughout the Roman Empire and were suffering trials."
Dr. Robert Jeffress

1. As believers we not only have Christ dwelling within us, but we also have each other in this process.

NOTE: 2 Cor. 1:3-4; Gal. 6:2

B. *count it all joy*

1. When trials come *choose* joy!

NOTE: Consider the trial to be something of value.

2. Our joy is found in our relationship with God, not our circumstances.

NOTE: "Joy is God-oriented rather than event-oriented because it centers on God and his presence in our experience."
Life Application Bible Commentary

C. *when ye fall into divers temptations*

1. Not *if* but *when*.

NOTE: The prosperity gospel is a myth. See Matt. 7:24-27

2. "Temptations" refers to the testings of our faith.
3. "Divers" means trials are diverse in nature.
4. "Fall" means trials sometimes come unexpectedly and ambush us.

II. (vs. 3) The Process

A. *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

1. The "trying of your faith" is the process of proving or testing the value of your faith.

NOTE: 1 Pet. 1:6-7; 5:6-11

2. "Patience" means "endurance".

NOTE: "Endurance is faith stretched out; it involves trusting God for a long duration."
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III. (vs. 4) The Desired Result

A. *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

1. Endurance is not passive but active in overcoming trials.

NOTE: Acts 5:40-42; 16:22-25; 2 Cor. 7:4

2. Christian maturity is God's desire for each of us.

CONCLUSION: There are some who just *drift* through life. They roll with the punches but are basically at the mercy of circumstances. There are others who *pretend* to be happy, but in reality are struggling with life. God has a better plan! Its *joy* and it only comes from having a vibrant relationship with Him. See Heb. 12:2; Rom 8:35-39.