

James 1:2-4

When God saved us from our sins and called us to Himself in the salvation of our souls, **there was joy**, both in heaven, and in our own hearts. What we formerly resisted and hated in Christ and in His gospel we now love; life for us NOW is not about how much of this life and this world that we can get, it's about how much of Christ can get in this world, while looking forward to eternal life in the next world!

We look forward to that New Heavens and New Earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness!

But as we live in this present world as children of the Kingdom of Christ, know that God will be doing His work in each of you; of remaking you and preparing you for your eternal home when pass move out of this world to heaven. How does He do this?

One of the ways that our heavenly Father prepares us for heaven is by constantly renewing our minds; conforming us to the image of Christ; one of the ways that He does that is by appointing trials for you and by testing your faith in Christ. Now at this point, you might be thinking like I do at times; YES, Lord, one trial perhaps, but why so many trials all at once!

James 1:2: Count it ALL JOY, when you fall into DIVERS or many different trials, and sometimes all at once.

The first thing to understand about this JOY that James wrote about is that THIS JOY IS NOT a natural response trials in this life!

But this IS to be our RESPONSE as children of God, to count it all JOY!

Peter teaches us to greatly rejoice or continue rejoicing, even though we find ourselves in the midst of difficult earthly trials. *1 Peter 1:3-9*

Jesus taught us that we would have tribulation/troubles in the world, but to be of good cheer because He overcame the world, and in Christ so will we, because we are overcomers and more than conquerors!

John 16:33, 1 Corinthians 10:13

The reason for the trying of your faith? It works or produces patience in you:

What exactly does that mean? The trying of your faith in Christ produces (IN YOU) MORE faith in Christ. When God tries/tests your faith, He is not driving you away from Him, He is drawing you nearer/closer to Him.

Your trial/difficulty should activate your faith in Christ and direct your heart toward Him.

PATIENCE here means ENDURANCE, (or strength to hold firmly to the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things

not seen). The trying of your faith produces spiritual strength in you to stay on course and to continue to look unflinchingly to Christ in your life! This is what Jude calls building up yourselves ON your most holy faith.

Hebrews 12:1-3, James 5:10-11

The Apostle Paul taught the Romans Christians (AND US) to glory or rejoice in tribulations, but NOT ignorantly! Like, HEY, look at me, I am so happy that I have all these troubles! NO! But we should know the reason and design of God in sending them to us! Paul helps us: Romans 5:1-5.

Tribulation WORKETH or PRODUCES patience in us!

Read James 1:2-3 again: Emphasis!

1 Peter 5:6-11

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

The word LET is a present, imperative, command. We are to constantly LET patience do her work in our hearts!

Her perfect work is settling your heart to be in a place of COMPLETE dependence upon God for every trial, every fear, every burden, and every difficulty!

Submit yourself to God, brethren, He has DESIGNED and ASSIGNED every trial that comes into your life by His wise and holy providence.

Psalms 55:22

This is how EVERY saint of God grows and matures in the faith! Your trials, your difficulties, your distresses are for your good, that you might cast your care upon the Lord!

Romans 8:28, Philippians 1:6, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Psalm 34:17-19