

12 September 2021
The Trying of your Faith

James 1:1-4: (V3): "Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing"

I remember the night Hurricane Ida came through, it was between 10PM and 2AM. Amid the storm, I remember praying, asking the Lord to help and protect us. I had never heard winds like that before. I was just waiting for a tree to fall on our house; come through the roof. Thankfully that never happened, though I know some of you did experience that.

I also remember thinking to myself that THIS STORM was necessary for us. How do I know this? Well, because God sent it here, put us in its crosshairs to test and prove, and to strengthen our faith in Him.

Hurricane Ida was for our good beloved!

Think about it, when God saved you from your sins, He gifted you with faith to believe on Him! *Ephesians 2:8-9*

Now Christian, it's your faith; your faith is to be used and exercised toward trusting God. *Hebrews 11:1-2*

What record does your faith give Christian? Does your life testify to your faith in Christ? Yours/My faith should give report to all who know us that God is true!

Christian, it is your faith that hard wires you to God! The problem with us; we so often need God to intervene into our lives, because when everything is going well and as planned, we tend towards NOT walking by faith!

So God sent Hurricane Ida to test and prove your faith in Him, so that you might USE your faith in Him, and that He might strengthen your faith!

Hurricane Ida was for our good; make no mistake. God didn't send it to hurt you, but to help you Christian, so that you would respond in faith!

You and I should KNOW THIS: James 1:3: "KNOWING THIS"

James opened this letter to the (12) scattered and tested tribes of believing Jewish Christians, that they might KNOW that their faith would be deliberately tested by God for their good! This is written for our learning children of God!

Romans 15:4-6

EVERYTHING in the scriptures is written for our learning and for the strengthening of our faith in Christ! In addition, EVERY TRIAL, EVERY AFFLICTION, this hurricane was sent here by God to strengthen your faith and your trust in your God and Father.

Two Sundays ago, when that storm came roaring through south Louisiana, it was time for us to believe everything that we know about our God and His intimate care for us as His children!

Did I "KNOW THIS" that night? Do I know it now? Did I believe that God was with me in the storm? Do I believe that God is with me now?

Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:25

Why was the Lord asleep on a pillow in the storm? To teach His apostles, that if their Lord was asleep in the storm, they should've trusted Him and got their pillows, and curled up next to Him! "Where is your faith"?

We should know that God is going to TRY our faith. The trying of your faith Christian, works or produces IN YOU, patience (or endurance).

The word "trying" or "tried" means to be tested or proved. God does not test His faith in you to see for Himself if it works, He's testing His faith in you so that YOU WILL SEE it.

The trying of your faith is NECESSARY for you, to prove to YOU the genuineness of it! Thomas Manton wrote: "Trials not only approve (our faith), but they are also designed to (improve) our faith"

Proverbs 11:5: "The LORD trieth the righteous"; 17:3, Psalm 139:1, 1 Peter 1:7, James 1:12.

And then, the trying of your faith WORKETH/PRODUCES PATIENCE or ENDURANCE. The divine effect of God trying your faith is that He might increase your faith and trust in Him, so that you CONTINUE with Him!

Trials and afflictions and distressing times in your life are not bad for you Christian; they're good for you; designed to strengthen your faith toward your God and heavenly Father.

And let me just say this about what we're going through; NOT having power and AC is hardly a sore trial, we're just soft/untested/spoiled people. We fair sumptuously every day.

"But LET patience have her perfect work": This is a Present Imperative command given to every Christian to willingly and gladly submit to the trying of your faith (when it comes and however it comes);

LET PATIENCE HAVE HER PERFECT WORK! No one becomes a mature adult overnight; we mature over time, we grow up gradually, we gain wisdom by learning and experiences in life. So when God saves a sinner, the newborn Christian is NOT immediately a seasoned saint, but a newborn babe in Christ. We mature and grow up in Christ and become wiser and more seasoned as Christians gradually, and with every passing day.

Part of your maturing process, Christian, is when God sends these trials into your life; they are designed to strengthen, not weaken your faith in Him. Don't resist what God is sending to you, immerse yourselves in God and in prayer and in trusting Him as your heavenly Father in the midst of your

trial, (KNOWING): Romans 5:1-5, Hebrews 13:20-21, 1 Peter 5:5-11

What is the perfect work of patience?

James doesn't tell us what that work is; only the result of that work of God in you Christian! The result of the trying of your faith is that it will PRODUCE in you patience/endurance; (STAYING POWER, the ability to stand and believe God) through it all.

God is doing His perfect work in you in EVERY trial, distress, sickness, or yes, Hurricane. When you gladly submit yourself and all of your stuff to God; THEN you are letting patience have her perfect work!

If you resist what God has sent to you, (in this case, Hurricane Ida), you are NOT letting patience have her perfect work, but you are resisting God's good work in you, for the maturing of your faith in Him. Philippians 2:13

"That ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing":

Perfect and Entire: That you might mature and grow up in the Lord; that you would be of full age in the Lord. Ephesians 4:11-15, 2 Peter 3:18

Hebrews 10:32-39

I purposely kept James 1:2 for the end: "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations". Romans 8:32-29, 2 Corinthians 4:17-18