

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for May 2-3, 1998

"Turning Trials into Triumph"

Dale Whitehead

James 1:1-12

The first test of living faith is "The Response to Trials Test".

True believers when they undergo trials will endure. Those who are not true believers, who do not possess living or saving faith will not endure (James 1:12). Those who have a genuine or saving faith will in the midst of their trials persevere in manifesting a real and genuine love for Christ (James 1:12).

If we see ourselves persevering in our love for Jesus no matter what happens to us we need to consider ourselves blessed (James 1:12). The word "blessed" (MAKARIOS) means "happy" or "fortunate". It implies a congratulatory element as recognizing the desirability of the condition (James 1:12).

The word "approved" (DOKIMOS) was used of the testing of coins and metals to establish their genuineness. The "crown of life" describes the Christian's final reward in heaven. The word for "crown" (STEPHANOS) refers to a victor's crown.

Important elements necessary for a proper response to trials.

Joyous attitude (James 1:2).

"Count" means once and for all consider or evaluate your trials as joy. "Encounter" suggests an unwelcome and unanticipated experience (Luke 10:30; Acts 27:41). "All joy" means joy unmixed with other reactions.

An understanding mind (James 1:3).

We can count it all joy when we encounter various trials because we know the testing of our faith produces endurance.

Endurance produces hope (1 Peter 1:3-7, Romans 8:35-39).

It is not the trial which is the source of our joy, but the knowledge that we will gain because we endured the trial (Acts 16:25).

Endurance produces maturity (James 1:4).

"Perfect" (TELEION) comes from a root word meaning "fulfillment, goal, end."

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The Lord uses adversity to produce dependence (2 Corinthians 1:8-9).

The Lord uses adversity to produce holiness (Hebrews 12:5-10).

The Lord uses adversity to produce greater service (2 Corinthians 1:3-5).

A strategic and sincere prayer life (VV. 5-8).

We need wisdom so we will not waste the opportunities God is giving us to mature (V.5).

The word "double-minded" (DIPSUCHOS) literally means "two-souled".

A person who is two-souled has his inner yearnings divided between God and the world (James 4:3-4).