

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for July 11-12 1998**

**Dale Whitehead**

**"Turning Trials into Triumph"**

**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).

Endurance produces maturity (James 1:4).

A strategic and sincere prayer life (James 1:5-8).

Strategic praying involves praying for wisdom (James 1:5).

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Sincere praying involves an undivided heart (James 1:6-8).

A heart set on things above rather than on things of earth (James 1:9-11).

Glory (KAUCHASTHO) The commentator Zodhiates said the word means "to profess loudly something that you have a right to be proud of."

The rich man is a rich Christian. Lenski's literal translation of the verses, "Now let him boast, the brother, the lowly one in his high position; on the other hand the rich one in his lowly position."

The humiliation is the passing away of the rich man's earthly abundance.