



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

A FAITH THAT ENDURES TO MATURITY, PART 2, JAMES 1:4

COLORADO

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As we continue with our study of James 1:4, we are reminded that through the trials and testing that will come, we must “give way” and submit to all God is doing in our lives! We must not resist His sovereign hand. Either we can be defeated by life’s unavoidable disappointments and struggles or our faith in Christ can become stronger because of them. We can resist and fight the trials that come our way, or we can recognize the adversity as God’s tool to make us as silver refined. Psalm 66:10 says, “For Thou has tried us, O God; Thou has refined us as silver is refined.”

I. SUBMITTING TO ENDURANCE- JAMES 1:4, PART 2

“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” James 1:2-4

It is hard to “give way” to God’s work and will in our lives. The adversity that comes can be so painful to bear or hard to swallow. But we must **submit** to our Lord’s refining flames, trusting in His greater purpose! We need to “let” God do what He wants to in our life. We must “give way” to His fire that burns in our lives for our good and His glory. We must trust Him fully with our lives and the lives of the ones we love. Submit to His will and purpose in your life and don’t resist His sovereign hand.

When you think about it, those who have endured with continuous suffering in their lives capture our deepest respect. It would be so easy to grow bitter in the face of trials. But we must abide under them, count it all joy and remember that they produce endurance. James encourages us to go through suffering without fainting, without retreating, but steadily enduring by faith.

Sometimes it may seem as though God is deaf to our cries for help, or maybe even that evil is triumphing. We need only turn to Hebrews 11 where the writer records for us men and women of great faith who endured much. In Hebrews 11:32-35, we read about those “*who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight...*”. These are the stories we like to hear, the ones we want to dwell on for it demonstrates victory and deliverance from hardship.

But Hebrews does not stop there. Hebrews 11:35 continues with, “*and others were tortured, not accepting their release, in order that they might obtain a better resurrection, and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill treated...And all these having gained approval through their faith..*” Here

are the ones who seemingly had no deliverance, they had no victory only suffering and torture. They didn’t take the easy way out by not accepting their release but suffered through without fainting, without retreating, without giving in but steadily enduring. Their eyes were on a better reward and so they endured. Sometimes it can seem as though God isn’t at work because He isn’t changing the situation, the injustice or the affliction even though we are crying out to Him. But He is at work refining our faith and just as these men and women of faith gained approval from God by their faith so will we. We must endure!

Hebrews doesn’t stop with the “*hall of faith*” chapter but goes on in Hebrews 12:1-3 to say, “*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.*” Our Lord is the author of our faith and He is perfecting our faith to maturity. Through the trials of life, our faith is strengthened and proven. Our faith becomes real and genuine. So remember, because they endured, because Christ endured, therefore we can and must endure to maturity!

A. ENDURANCE’S PERFECT RESULT– JAMES 1:4B

“And let endurance have its perfect result...” James 1:4b

Surrendering to the testing God brings our way will lead us to the perfect result, or perfect work He intends to accomplish in our lives. What is that “*perfect result*”?

“**perfect**” Greek word “*teleios*,” means not sinlessness or moral perfection, but rather to that which is fully developed, mature. The goal and purpose to which man was intended, namely obedience to Christ. Not sinlessness but also not morally lacking. It is an adult full grown as opposed to a child.

As we submit to the trials with patient endurance and don’t surrender to circumstances, we grow into spiritual maturity (adulthood) verses remaining spiritual babes in Christ. The goal is to become more like Christ, obedient to God and His Word. This is the purpose to which we were saved.

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 7:15AM, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

STAFF, LOBBYISTS, JOURNALISTS & SERGEANTS: TUESDAYS AT NOON, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0107

Colorado

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In Philippians 3:12 Paul writes, “Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.” These tests and trials then, are part of being able to “lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.” Paul’s expectation and teaching for believers was that we would press on to become mature.

B. ENDURANCE’S COMPLETE RESULT— JAMES 1:4C

“And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” James 1:4

James doesn’t stop with maturity but adds complete to the end result of trials and testing if we endure.

“complete” Greek word **“holokleros”** carries the idea of being whole, entire, all, having all its parts, sound, perfect, wanting or needing nothing for its completeness.

It is worth noting that the prefix *“holo”* is where we get the term hologram, referring to a 360 degrees, three dimensional depiction of an object. The result of enduring trials to God’s desired end is a completeness and wholeness from every dimension. In fact, we become so complete and whole that we are not lacking anything of spiritual importance or value, as James 1:4 says, *“lacking in nothing.”*

As endurance or perseverance accomplishes its work, it produces in our lives the ultimate end of maturity and spiritual fulfillment. This is the promised blessing of enduring through trials. Do we value present comfort more than spiritual maturity? Sometimes we do. But where we need to be was expressed well by John the Baptist in John 3:30, *“He must increase, but I must decrease.”* John the Baptist was fading away as Christ was coming to the front. Christ must increase in our lives and does as we submit to His refinement that comes through adversity. It’s more of Him and less of me.

Romans 5:3-5 parallels the teachings of James quite well. *“And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”*

We live in a world where perseverance is lacking. We want what we want and we want it now! We turn and run from our disappointments and

difficulties. We run to drugs, alcohol or anything else to escape. But James was written to show us how to deal with the test and trials of life in a way that brings about spiritual maturity. His exhortations are not the easy way, but they result in maturity and completeness, becoming like Christ. And this is the purpose and goal to which we were created for, namely, growth and obedience to Christ.

As we endure in this way, ultimately we will reach the point where our mission in life is accomplished. We will be as silver refined. And we will be able to stand before our Lord and say as Paul, *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”* (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

In this book we are challenged to count it all joy. That joy results from confidence and peace in God’s sovereignty, as we look down the road of our life to the end result of maturity and ultimately being with Christ eternally. We are to count it joy when we encounter many, varied kinds of trials which are brought by God, knowing that the test by which our faith is proven produces a cheerful hopeful endurance that submits to God and remains under the trial. We must let this endurance have its intended result of bringing about obedience to Christ, maturity, wholeness and completeness where we lack nothing of spiritual importance or value. James teaches us about a faith that endures through trials to maturity resulting in obedience to Jesus Christ and being conformed to His image, not ours. No matter what the test, no matter what the trial, may we give way to God’s sovereignty in our lives allowing Him to refine and mature us into His likeness.

“Humble yourselves, therefore under the mighty hand of God that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by our brethren who are in the world. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

1 Peter 5:6-11