From Trouble to Triumph, Part 1
John MacArthur

I. Introduction. Text: James 1:2-12.

II. How one handles trouble is indication of his or her faith.

    A. We cannot avoid trouble. (Job 5:7, 14:1, Psalm 22:11, Isaiah 8:22, I Corinthians 7:28, John11:33, 12:47, 13:21, II Corinthians 4:8)

    B. Trial is not a solicitation to evil, but a test of the genuineness of one's faith.

    C. A false believer will fail in a test, but a believer will be proven by casting himself on the strength of God.

III. The one who endures is fulfilled and happy. (James 5:11)

    A. The person who endures a trial comes out a winner.

    B. A Christian is one who has an ongoing love for God and holds onto it through trial. (I John 2:19, I Peter 1:6, John 14:15, 15:9-10, I John 2:5-6, 4:16, 5:1-3)

    C. Love to be demonstrated that it is genuine must be tested.

    D. We are secure because of the promise of God, the prayers of Christ and the sealing of the Spirit. Our security is based on the covenant faithfulness of God. (John 10:28; 6; 17; Luke 22; I John 1:9, Ephesians 1; I Thessalonians 5:17, 24; Psalm 31; 37; 41:2; 97:10; 116:6; Romans 16:25; II Timothy 1:12; 4:18; I Peter 1:5; Jude 1, 24)

    E. We are not only kept by God, but from the human standpoint, we persevere. The means of security is brought from the power of the Spirit to endure all trials. (Matthew 24:13; John 8:31; I Corinthians 15; Colossians 1; Hebrews 2; 3:14; 4:14; 6:12; 10:39; II Peter 1:10)

    F. No one is secure that does not endure. (I John 2:19)

IV. Trials strengthen our faith.

V. The crown a believer receives is eternal life. (II Timothy 4:8, I Timothy 6:12, I Peter 5:4, Revelation 2:10)

VI. Pragmatic aspects to a persevering faith.

    A. A joyous attitude.

B. An understanding mind.

C. A submissive will.

D. A believing heart.

E. A humble spirit.

Application questions:

1. In what trials did you learn the most about yourself? What did you learn?

_____

_____

2. How would you defend eternal security from the Scriptures?

_____

_____

3. What is the relationship between eternal security and perseverance?

_____

_____