

From Trouble to Triumph, Part 2

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: James 1:2-12.
- B. True Christians love God.
- C. The people who endure trials are those who love God.
- D. James is about what proves genuine love for God.
- E. Various trials come to test our faith. (1 Peter 1)
- F. There are several means to persevering through trials.

II. A joyous attitude.

- A. Joy does not happen by accident—it is cultivated. (Philippians 4)
- B. In trials we are to anticipate God's perfecting work. (Hebrews 12:10-11; John 15; 16:20; 1 Peter 2:20)
- C. We have not suffered as much as Jesus did. (Hebrews 12:20; Acts 16; 2 Corinthians 12; Philippians 1)
- D. Our values determine our evaluation of life. If we cannot rejoice in our trials, our values are wrong.

III. An understanding mind.

- A. What is going on in your life is producing something beneficial.
- B. We do not face supernatural trials. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- C. God is strengthening our faith. (2 Thessalonians 1, Hebrews 11)

IV. A submissive will.

- A. Do not fight God's will. (Psalm 131)
- B. The goal is the formation of Christ in us. (Galatians 4:19, Jeremiah 48)

Application Questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who says that God does not give us trials that are too difficult?

2. How can a Christian maintain joy in the midst of trials?

3. What role does the will play in persevering through trial? Explain.
