

From Trouble to Triumph, Part 4

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: James 1:2-12.

B. A person who receives the Word of God with joy but falls away in a time of testing does not have saving faith.

C. God sends trials to test the genuineness of our faith.

D. James ask how true faith can endure trial.

II. True faith possesses a joyous attitude in the midst of trial. There is always a window for believers to find a source of joy.

III. True faith possesses an understanding mind.

IV. True faith possesses endurance that brings maturity.

V. To maintain these attitudes we need wisdom.

A. Wisdom helps one live life for the glory of God.

B. If one lacks wisdom, he should ask God. (Proverbs 3:5-7, Job 28)

C. The place to go first for wisdom is God.

D. This is not philosophical wisdom, but guidance for doing what is right.

E. Trials are intended to drive us to dependency upon God.

F. God is generous to give understanding. (Proverbs 2, Jeremiah 29:11, Matthew 7)

G. We endure through prayer if we ask. (Mark 14:48)

H. The condition for receiving God's wisdom is asking.

VII. We can rejoice in trials because true riches are to come. (Romans 8:17)

VIII. Whether poor or rich, trials come to all. We are all called to depend on God.

IX. Trials are to help us acquaint ourselves better with our own hearts and our Savior.

Application Questions:

1. How does God use trials to advance our relationship with him?

2. When have you received God's wisdom from asking? What did you learn?

3. What kind of wisdom can we expect to receive when we ask God? Is this promise unconditional? Explain.
