

# Turning Trials Into

# Triumphs

James 1:2-12  
Pt.2



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Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2  
(Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996),  
337–341.

# The result of this victory is spiritual maturity.

If we are going to turn trials into triumphs, we must obey four imperatives: **count** (*James 1:2*), **know** (*James 1:3*), **let** (*James 1:4, 9–11*), and **ask** (*James 1:5–8*).

Or, to put it another way, there are four essentials for victory in trials: a joyful attitude, an understanding mind, a surrendered will, and a heart that wants to believe.

As we read about Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, and even our Lord, we realize that God has a purpose in trials.

## **God fulfills His purposes as we trust Him.**

There is no substitute for an understanding mind.

Satan cannot overcome the Christian who knows his Bible and understands the purposes of God.

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# Let – A Surrendered Will (James 1:4, 9–12)

## James 1:4 (NKJV)

But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

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# Let – A Surrendered Will (James 1:4, 9–12)

## James 1:9–12 (NKJV)

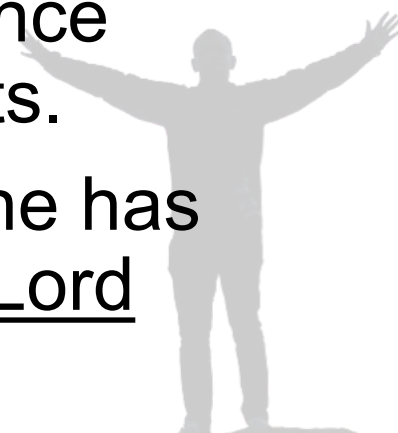
9 Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation,

10 but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away.

11 For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.

12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

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# God Cannot Build Our Character Without Our Cooperation, And If We Submit To Him, Then He Can Accomplish His Work.

He is not satisfied with a halfway job.

God wants a perfect work; He wants a finished product that is mature and complete.

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**Patience** - ὑπομονή [hupomone /hoop·om·on·ay/] n f. It is steadfastness, constancy, endurance in the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and godliness by even the greatest trials and sufferings. James Strong, [Enhanced Strong's Lexicon](#) (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995).

## 2 Corinthians 6:4–5 (NKJV)

4 But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses,

5 in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings;

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Paul reminded his readers of the trials he had endured for them (2 Cor. 6:4–5). He had been a man of endurance (“patience”) and had not quit when things were tough.

Tribulations are trials under pressure, when you are pressed down by circumstances.

Needs are the everyday hardships of life, and distresses refer to experiences that push us into a corner where there seems to be no escape. The Greek word means “a narrow place.”

Still Paul says be patient, and be one of good character.

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# God's Goal For Our Lives Is Maturity

**Perfect** - τέλειος [teleios /tel·i·os/] adj. It is to bring to its end, finished. It wants nothing necessary to completeness. It is to consummate human integrity, and virtue and grow into adulthood, of full age, and mature.

Many Christians shelter themselves from the trials of life, and as a result, never grow up.

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## 1 Corinthians 14:20 (NKJV)

Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.

**Malice** - κακία [kakia /kak·ee·ah/] n f. 1 It is malignity, ill-will, and a desire to injure. It is wickedness, depravity that is not ashamed to break laws. It is evil and trouble.

So if we are operating in a spirit of immaturity, we don't care if we hurt anyone, and we will do all we can to keep from hurting ourselves while we deal with our present trials.

**Many Christians shelter themselves from the trials of life, and as a result, never grow up. God wants the “little children” to become “young men,” and the “young men” He wants to become “fathers”.**

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## 1 John 2:12–14 (NKJV)

12 I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.

13 I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father.

14 I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.

# We Must Surrender Our Hearts To God.

God cannot work in us without our consent. There must be a surrendered will.

## Luke 9:23 (NKJV)

Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

The mature person does not argue with God’s will; instead, he accepts it willingly and obeys it joyfully.

# We Must Surrender Our Hearts To God

## Ephesians 6:6 (NKJV)

not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

If we try to go through trials without surrendered wills, we will end up more like immature children than mature adults.

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# Ask - A Believing Heart (James 1:5–8)

## James 1:5–8 (NKJV)

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.



# The People To Whom James Wrote Had Problems With Their Praying

(James 4:1–3; 5:13–18)

When we are going through God-ordained difficulties, what should we pray about them?

*James answers: ask God for wisdom.*

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# The People To Whom James Wrote Had Problems With Their Praying

*(James 4:1–3; 5:13–18)*

## James 4:1–3 (NKJV)

1 Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?

2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

## James 5:13–18 (NKJV)

13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.

14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

When we are going through God-ordained difficulties, what should we pray about them?

*James answers: ask God for wisdom.*

### **Proverbs 2:6 (NKJV)**

For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;

**Wisdom** - [chokmah /khok·maw/] n f. – It is the skill (in war), (in administration), astuteness, prudence (in religious affairs, (ethical and religious)).

Wisdom is the right use of knowledge.

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# Someone Has Said That Knowledge Is The Ability To Take Things Apart, While Wisdom Is The Ability To Put Them Together.

## Proverbs 2:10–12 (NKJV)

10 When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul,

11 Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you,

12 To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things,

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# All Of Us Know People Who Are Educated Fools: They Have Brilliant Academic Records, But They Cannot Make The Simplest Decisions In Life.

Why do we need wisdom when we are going through trials? Why not ask for strength, or grace, or even deliverance?

For this reason: we need wisdom so we will not waste the opportunities God is giving us to mature.

Wisdom helps us understand how to use these circumstances for our good and God's glory.

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## Jeremiah 9:23–24 (NKJV)

23 Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches;

24 But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD.

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# James Not Only Explained What To Ask For (Wisdom), But He Also Described How To Ask. We Are To Ask In Faith.

**Faith** - πίστις [pistis /pis·tis/] n f. It is a conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the NT of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervor born of faith and joined with it relating to God.

We do not have to be afraid, for God is anxious to answer, and He will never scold us! “He giveth more grace” (*James 4:6*).

# James Not Only Explained What To Ask For (Wisdom), But He Also Described How To Ask. We Are To Ask In Faith.

He also gives more and more wisdom. The greatest enemy to answered prayer is unbelief.

This is the experience of the “double-minded man.” Faith says, “Yes!” but unbelief says, “No!”

Then doubt comes along and says, “Yes!” one minute and “No!” the next.



**Double-minded** - δίψυχος [dipsuchos /dip·soo·khos/] adj It is to be double-minded, which is wavering, uncertain, doubting, and divided in interest.

First, he must ask in faith. (*He must believe and not doubt the word for “doubt,” suggests vacillating*). He dare not come to God like a wave of the sea, blown [horizontally] and tossed [vertically] by the wind.

God is not pleased with a double-minded (*lit., “two-souled,” dipsychos; cf. 4:8*) man who is unstable in all he does, like an unsteady, staggering drunk. The answer from God depends on assurance in God.

It was doubt that made Peter sink in the waves as he was walking to Jesus (*Matt. 14:22–33*).

Jesus asked him, “O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?” When Peter started his walk of faith, he kept his eyes on Christ.

But when he was distracted by the wind and waves, he ceased to walk by faith; and he began to sink. He was double-minded, and he almost drowned.

James closed this section with a beatitude: “Blessed is the man that endures temptation” (*James 1:12*).

He started (*James 1:2*) and ended with joy. Outlook determines the outcome.

This beatitude is a great encouragement because it promises a crown to those who patiently endure trials.