

# GRACE WHEN THINGS ARE HARD

Introduction *Heb 5:8-10*

## You Will Face Trials

- A. Trials are the ordinary experience of believers living in a fallen world. *Luke 12:52-53; John 16:33; 1 Pet 4:12-13; Job 5:7; Phil. 3:10; Col. 1:24; 2 Cor 4:8; Ps 34:19a*
- B. Believers in the Bible suffered great trials. *Gen 3:12; 4:8ff; 12:11ff; 25:28ff; 27:1ff; 25:22; 37:2ff; 1 Sam 2:12ff; 8:3; 2 Sam 12:10ff; 13:1ff; 15:1ff; Ezek 18:1ff; Job 1:18-19; 2:9*
- C. We continue to endure significant trials.
- D. James does not say that we can, through faith and prayer, eliminate trials. *Jas 1:5-7; Job 5:7; Heb 11:1ff; Ezek 18:1ff; Luke 12:52-53*
- E. Trials typically fall upon you unexpectedly. *Luke 10:30*

God Is at Work in Your Trials and Uses Your Trials to Mature You *Jas 1:2-4*

- A. Consider it all joy – It is vital for you to think correctly about your trials. *1 Pet 1:6*

1. You can rejoice because God is in the picture. Think beyond your pain to the good our sovereign God is doing. *Heb 12:11; Rom 8:28; Gen 50:20*

2. What are some positive examples of those who had joy in their trials? *Acts 5:40-41; 16:25; Col 1:24; Heb 12:1ff; 11:26; 2 Cor 6:10; 7:4; 12:9ff; Matt 5:10-12*

B. God uses trials to help you to grow. *Jas 1:3; Rom 5:2-4; 1 Pet 1:6-7; Ps 40:1-2; 2 Thess 1:3-4*

1. Knowing – You need to understand God's purpose in your trials. *Prov 27:6; 3:11-12*

2. The testing of your faith – Your trials prove and refine your faith. *1 Pet 1:7; Ps 12:6*

3. Produces endurance – Your trials produce needed steadfastness. *Rom 5:3; Heb 12:11; Luke 8:15; 2 Thess 1:4; Rev 2:2; 13:10; 2 Pet 1:6; Heb 11:37-39; 2 Cor 12:9ff*

C. The end result of your trials is that you will be mature. *Jas 1:4; Matt 5:48*

1. Let endurance have its perfect result – Trials do not always and automatically produce endurance.

2. In what sense can you become perfect and complete? *Jas 1:4, 12; 3:2; Matt 5:48; 19:21; Col 1:28; 4:12; 1 Thess 5:23; Phil 3:15*

### Ask God for Wisdom in Your Trials *Jas 1:5-8*

A. We especially need wisdom when facing trials. *Jas 1:5a; 3:17; Prov 1:2ff*

B. Ask God to give you the wisdom you need. *Jas 1:5a*

1. Admit that you lack wisdom. *Matt 5:3, 6*

2. Seek wisdom as God's great gift. *Prov 2:6; Rom 11:33*

3. The wisdom we seek is embodied in the Person of Jesus Christ. *1 Cor 1:30; Col 2:3*

C. God gladly gives His wisdom to all those who seek Him. *Prov 1:21ff; 9:1ff; 2:1ff*

1. James echoes Jesus' teaching. *Matt 7:7-11; John 14:13-14*

2. God gives generously. *2 Cor 8:2; 9:11; Rom 8:31ff; Eph 3:20-21; 1 Kgs 3:9ff*

3. He gives without reproach. *Prov 23:6-7; Ps 103:13; Isa 55:6-9*

4. This is an absolute promise of God. *Prov 1:20ff; John 7:37; Ps 81:10*

D. How does God impart His wisdom? *Jas 1:18; Rom 10:17; Ps 1:2; Prov 1:5*

1. Do not expect God to impart the skill of wisdom to you by zapping you.

2. God uses His Word to make you wise. *Jas 1:18, 21; Rom 10:17; Ps 1:1ff*

E. You must ask in faith. *Jas 1:6b-8*

1. What does it mean to ask in faith? *Heb 11:6; Matt 21:22; Mark 11:24; Rom 4:21*

2. What kind of doubt is James condemning? *Jas 1:6; Matt 26:39; Mark 9:24*

3. God hates double mindedness. *Jas 1:8; 4:8, 4; Ps 119:113; Prov 3:5-6; 28:26; Ps 1:1; Jer 17:5; Rev 3:15-16; Matt 6:24; 1 Kgs 18:21; 2 Kgs 17:33; Rev 3:15*

4. God blesses those who have undivided loyalty and commitment to Him with wisdom and stability. *Ps 1:3; Jer 17:7-8; Deut 6:5; Prov 3:5-6; Heb 6:10; Matt 7:24-25*

### Never Lose Sight of God's Goodness in Your Trials *Jas 1:12-18*

A. Satan will tempt you to doubt God's goodness when you are enduring trials. *Gen 3:5*

B. Don't blame God when you are tempted. *Jas 1:13*

C. God is good. *Jas 1:17; Ps 145:15-16, 19; Matt 5:45; John 3:16; Acts 17:25*

1. He is the Father (Creator) of lights. *Gen 1:14ff; Ps 136:6-8; 1 John 1:5; 1 Tim 6:16*

2. He is immutably perfect in His goodness. *Jas 1:17d; Mal 3:6; 1 John 1:5; Heb 13:8; Ps 18:30a; 100:5; 102:26-27; Isa 40:8*

D. God generously gives good gifts. *Jas 1:17, 5*

1. He is the source of every good gift. *Jas 4:4; 3:15, 17; 1:5; John 3:3, 7, 16, 31; 2 Pet 1:3-4*

2. God is good to everything and everyone, even His enemies. *Matt 5:45; 6:26-30; Acts 14:17; Ps 104:27-28; 145:15-16*

3. His gifts are perfect (complete). *Jas 1:25; Deut 32:4; Ps 19:7*

4. God's best gifts are spiritual. *Jas 1:5; 3:17; 2 Pet 1:3-4; Col 3:1-2; Matt 7:11; Rom 6:23; John 3:16; 14:17; Ezek 36:25-26; Ps 19:7ff; 1 Cor 10:13*

- E. When you feel overwhelmed by trials and are tempted to doubt God's goodness, remember His good gifts. *Rom 8:31ff; 2 Pet 1:3-4; Prov 18:22; 19:14; 1 Thess 5:18; 1 Tim 4:4-5; Ps 73:1, 17ff; 74:12ff; 80:8ff*

Conclusion *Ps 119:67, 71*