

WORD OF THE DAY



WORD OF THE DAY ([James 1:2-4](#))

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

Seeing the Joy in the trials



No exemptions granted. Trials are a fact of life and God grants no exemptions; the just and the unjust, and the good and the evil all go through trials ([Matthew 5:45](#)). For the sake of this writing, a trial is defined as a prolong period in time in which the circumstances of our life bring about pain, distress, or discomfort. If you are old enough to read this, you are old enough to remember a time when you had trials and difficulties in life. Perhaps you are in a trial this very day as you read this. Indeed no one is exempt from trials, if Jesus, the sinless Son of God, had to endure trials while on this earth, certainly you will also.

No template given. The Bible does not give us a standard template for understanding why we go through trials. For example, a trial is not necessarily evidence of personal sin; we see this vividly illustrated as Job's friends falsely explained Job's trials as a consequence of his sin ([Job 1:22](#)). Secondly, a trial is also not necessarily because of a lack of prayer in our life. This is illustrated as Paul prayed several times for God to remove his trial that he describes as a "thorn in his flesh" ([2nd Corinthians 12:9](#)). Yet with all of Paul's praying, it was not removed in that moment. Last but not least, a trial cannot always be blamed on the devil. There are numerous examples in the Bible such as Saul being struck with blindness after his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus ([Acts 9:18](#)), where trials came directly at the hand of God. Trials are not all the same; they don't always come because of sin, they don't always continue because of a lack of prayer, and they cannot always be blamed on the devil.

No need to despair. Although the Bible does not give us any simple way of always determining why we are experiencing a trial, the Bible does tell us to embrace trials with Joy. Yes, Joy, that is not a typographical error. It likely seems nearly incomprehensible for us to wrap our minds around this command given by James in our verse of the day above; yet this is the one thing that we find that all trials have in common. Regardless of why, who, what, where, or how long, we find ourselves in a trial, we are told that this testing of our faith will lead to patience. And moreover, this patience will result in us "*not lacking anything*" as we find our strength in Christ. However, if we take the easy route out of a trial by trying to ease the pain, escape the discomfort, or sinfully mitigating the distress with unprescribed illegal drugs, sinful behaviors, or other temporary fixes led by the flesh; while we may escape the pain in the moment, we will end up forfeiting our opportunity to grow in patience and draw closer to God. Therefore, let us bring out the welcoming committee of Joy every time we face a trial, not because trials are good, but because God is good.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

All trials may not be the same, but our respond can be (the same) when we face them. Joy!

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Dear God, thank you for this grand revelation to enter trials with Joy. Yes, Lord, you indeed can be trusted to get me through the greatest storms of life. If you did not leave your Son dead in the grave, surely you will not allow me to be consumed by the trials of my life. In Jesus name I prayer. Amen.

Your brother in Christ, WNL

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