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2  Trouble on the Horizon

3  Are Trials a Good Thing?

- Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds . . . (James 1:2 NIV)

- . . . because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.


(James 1:3–4 NIV)

4  Are Trials a Good Thing?

- Consider it wholly joyful, my brethren, whenever you are enveloped in or encounter trials of any sort or fall into various temptations.

- Be assured and understand that the trial and proving of your faith bring out endurance and steadfastness and patience.

- But let endurance and steadfastness and patience have full play and do a thorough work, so that you may be [people] perfectly and fully developed [with no defects], lacking in nothing. (James 1:2–4 AMP)


5  Are Trials a Good Thing?

- The point James is making is clear.

- Trials are a good thing and something we should welcome.

- For trials give us the choice to exercise our faith so that it may grow.

- Then we will be able to persevere through whatever happens to us and be mature—doing the right thing to the end.

6  Are Trials a Good Thing?

- In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

(1 Peter 1:6 NIV)

- These have come so that your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

(1 Peter 1:7 NIV)

7  Response to Trials

8  Typical Reaction to Trials

•What are the typical reactions to trials?

- We have a “Pity Party”
- Make an inner vow.
- Finger Pointing & Put downs
- Outburst of Anger & Rage
- Slander & Filthy Language
- Wrath & Brawling

## 9 Are Trials a Good Thing?

- When we face a major trial we have two options.
- We can make a godly response, which will help us mature.
- We can make an ungodly response, which will further frustrate our lives.

## 10 Question

- When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, why didn’t they enter the Promised Land?
- Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert. . . . And do not grumble, as some of them did — and were killed by the destroying angel. (1 Corinthians 10:5, 10 NIV)

## 11 Worst Enemy?

- James 3:6 – The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body.
- It corrupts the whole person,
- sets the whole course of his life on fire,
- and is itself set on fire by hell (devil).

## 12 Little, but Big Effect

- Like a bit in a horse’s mouth the tongue can direct our whole course of life.
- Like a rudder on a ship, the tongue can sail us to safety or into harm.
- Like a spark that sets a forest on fire, the tongue can set our whole life on fire.

## 13 Little, but Big Effect

- James 1:26 If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.
- If we look at Mark 7:20–23, Jesus says that what corrupts us is not what we eat, but what we speak.

## 14 Taming the Tongue

- In writing in 1 Timothy 4, the Apostle Paul gives Timothy this command . . .
  - train yourself to be godly!
  - For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.
  - Command and teach these things.

## 15 Spiritual Training

## 16 The Promise

- 1 Peter 3:10 For, “Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech.
- Proverbs 21:23 He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.

## 17 Conclusion

- The point of this sermon is simply this . . .
  - Our Faith is on Trial
  - How we respond to trials will either strength us or weaken us.
  - We can pray “lead me not into temptation.”
  - But the bottom line is trials are necessary.

## 18 Suggestions

- Let us simplify our lives.
- Let us forgive each other when one of us has had a bad day.
- Let us remember that doing what is right in the midst of trials is great spiritual gain.
- Let us remember that when we submit to God, resist the devil, he (the devil) will flee from us. (James 4:7)