

"Living Through Hard Things"

James 1:1-8

July 7, 2019

Reckon - vs. 2

Principle #1: Outlook determines outcome, attitude determines action

Acts 14:22, "... strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, 'Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.'"

1 Peter 4:12, "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you."

Matthew 5:12, "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

James 5:11, "We count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful."

Hebrews 12:2, "...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Job 23:10, "But He knows the way I take; when He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold."

Recognize - vs. 3

Faith is Always Tested - vs 3a

Principle #2: To resist trials is to refuse spiritual growth.

1 Peter 1:6-7, "In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, ⁷ so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;"

Testing Works For Us, not Against Us - vs 3b

2 Corinthians 4:17, "For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.."

Principle #3: The testing of our faith produces eternal rewards.

Trials Help Us Mature - vs 3c

Romans 5:3-4, "And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope .."

Principle #4: Facing trials joyfully will bring God glory.

Release - vs. 4

Matthew 5:48, "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Ephesians 4:13, "...until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ."

Principle #5: God wants us to end up mature and complete.

Request - vs. 5-8

1 Kings 3:9-10, "So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" ¹⁰ It was pleasing in the sight of the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing."

Principle #6: Pray for wisdom not to waste experience of suffering.

James 3:17, "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy."

Principle #7: God wants to answer our prayers when we ask rightly.

1 John 3:22, "...and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight."

1 John 5:14, "This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

Principle #8: "Prayer" not based upon God's will has no power.

Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

Ephesians 4:14, "As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming..."

James 4:8, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

Principle #9: Believing prayer is the ultimate communion with God.

Jeremiah 29:12-13, "Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.¹³ You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."