

Practical Christianity – Why do “bad things” happen to God’s people?

James 1:1-12

5/4/2019 P.M.

5/5/2019 A.M.

While the Bible does not teach “salvation by works” it does teach about “salvation that works.” This is the subject of James’ letter. True Christians are enabled to view and live life differently. Our faith is to change how we face hardships and trials. James says we should “consider it a great joy” when trials come. The word “consider” should be translated “think forward.” In other words, as you look at how the trial can be used to make you more Christlike, you have joy as you look forward to that result. Trials are used by God...

To produce ENDURANCE Vv.2-3

- Trials strip away the SUPERFICIAL and force us to genuinely trust God.
- This trust/faith can develop VICTORIOUS endurance.

To produce GROWTH V.4

- “mature” is to be fully developed so that what God began in you will be brought to COMPLETION.
- “complete” is to have all the PARTS. In other words, if we are fully mature in other areas but have not learned to trust God in trials we are missing a key ingredient in our growth.

To reveal our need for God’s WISDOM V.5

- To UNDERSTAND trials properly we need God’s wisdom.
- To RESPOND to trials properly we need God’s wisdom.

To grow our CONFIDENCE in God and His Word Vv.6-8

- As we ask for wisdom to navigate through trials, we are to trust God to SUPPLY that wisdom.
- To fail to trust God produces INSTABILITY.

To show us our LIMITATIONS Vv.9-11

- The believer who is in POVERTY must ultimately trust God.
- The believer who is WEALTHY must ultimately trust God.

To focus our attention on our FUTURE REALITY V.12

- Dr. David Jeremiah said, “We are saved by trusting in Christ, but we are crowned when we are tested by fire and continue to love Him.”

One final quote from Andrew Murray

“In time of trouble, say, “First, He brought me here. It is by His will I am in this strait place; in that I will rest.” Next, “He will keep me here in His love, and give me grace in this trial to behave as His child.” Then say, “He will make the trial a blessing, teaching me lessons He intends me to learn, and working in me the grace He means to bestow.” And last, say, “In His good time He can bring me out again. How and when, He knows.” Therefore, say, “I am here (1) by God’s appointment, (2) in His keeping, (3) under His training, (4) for His time.”