

“When Trials Come”

James 1:2-5
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James tells us that we should “Consider it a **pure joy** when we face trials of many kinds”; however, trials are anything but joyous occasions. Rejoicing is possible only when we

_____ understand _____ the purpose of trials.

There are three primary reasons for Christians to face trials:

1. Consequences of our own _____ sin nature _____.

2. God’s will for trials in our lives to _____ benefit others _____.
 - a. Battling _____ spiritual warfare _____.

b. God doing a _____ great work _____.

3. Our own _____ fear _____ or lack of _____ patience _____.

Paul and Silas knew they were being used by God—that is why they could sing and pray in jail. Moses knew he was being used by God—that is why he answered the children of Israel, “*Do not be afraid; stand firm and you will see!*”

Christian brothers, when trials come, be patient, trust God, do not react out of fear, do not doubt. God is right there. It is only through facing many trials that we have the experience needed to discern God’s will. This is the essence of what James is teaching—*because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*