

How to Understand the Adversity

What are God's purposes for allowing adversity? Many times we are looking at adversity as a huge hassle and feel like God is not being fair. But we need to always know that the Lord is with us in our pressing circumstances. We also need to see a greater purpose for adversity in our lives. Adversity can be our greatest motivation to spiritual growth or it can be a deadly means of discouragement and shipwreck our faith.

Let's read James 1:2-4. Verse one speaks of an attitude that the Holy Spirit wants us to develop in trials. Can you find it? It is also listed as a fruit that the Holy Spirit brings to our lives (Galatians 5:22).

How can you develop that kind of spirit in trials? Well, James tells us. He says in verse 3 "Because you know..." In other words, joy is based on you having absolute assurance now because your trial will provide the five things listed in verses 3 and 4. What are they?

Write down the five outcomes of trials on a piece of paper. Read them slowly and then begin to thank God for the special outcomes that will be given to you in the trial you face today.

When we are so busy praying for deliverance from the trial, we often miss the *purpose* of the trial. We all need these five gifts and also one final important (very important) one. Now read verse 5. What is the gift? This is a powerful gift that comes directly from God. You must always pray for it (Ephesians 1:17), you will be able to outsmart the enemy, be given a special solution to your dilemma. Many a door of opportunity has been opened by persevering through a trial and waiting for direction and wisdom.

Remember, when God said that in all things He works for the good of those who love Him – He means it (Romans 8:28). Now, read verses 6-8. What is the enemy of wisdom? That one spirit that prevails in the lives of Christians today, slays more precious saints. We must determine to believe and not doubt. It started with Eve, "Did God really say..."

God wants to make a believer out of you. You must slay the Goliath of doubt! Good gifts and solutions, victories and miracles await you. Listen to the negative creeping its way into your mind. Determine to never doubt your God nor the wisdom and the amazing outcome of your trial. He is able (Ephesians 3:20-21). You are capable (Philippians 4:12-13). Let victory prevail (Psalm 84:5-7)!