

Overcomers Series 2 of 3

Tests and Trials - WHY???

James 1

Why do you have to take a test?

Why do you have to go through hard and often painful stuff AKA Trials?

Today we want to look at these questions and end up with some understanding of the why?

Overcomer: (Definition)

a person or one who succeeds in dealing with or gaining control of some problem or difficulty

Looking at Tests and Trials From God's Perspective Instead of Our Own View

Who This Was Written To

James 1:1

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:

- People who had to leave their homes and flee to other places
- Not because they wanted a better place to live but to be safe
- If you sat across from someone going through a hard time what would you say to them?

This is What God Said to Them Through James

James 2-4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

- Consider it pure joy - WHAT?
- Because You Know - a Knowledge that gives us the ability to consider it pure joy
- The testing of your faith
 - Your faith has to be in play in trials
 - What do we believe - Heb. 11:6 (Message) It's impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists *and* that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him.
 - What is the purpose of a test?
- Produces perseverance
- **perseverance** - persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success
- Remember True Grit? it is not about your comfort it is about your character
- Finished work is a mature and complete follower of Jesus

God is at Work

Romans 8:28-29

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

God Has a Plan - A Purpose for you

Jeremiah 29:10-12

This is what the Lord says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

When All is Stripped and ALL that Remains is Him

Jeremiah 29:14-15

Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity. [b] I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

What if it is not just about you?

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DCVmU5gMDQ>