

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 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. James 1:2-4 (NIV)

Working In You

I am working in your life. Day by day and moment by moment, I am changing you. I am molding and shaping your life. I am making you into the person I want you to become. How are you working in my life? What are you using to change me moment by moment and day by day? How are you molding and shaping me into the person you want me to become? How can I recognize your activity in my life? **Why do you want to know? Why are you asking me these questions?** I want to welcome your activity in my life. I don't want to get in the way of your working in my life. I don't want to hinder anything that you want to do in me, with me or through me. **Those are good thoughts. Those are good desires. With the wrong attitude, you could hinder my working in your life. With the wrong attitude, you could short circuit what I want to do in you, with you and through you.** I don't want that. **No, you don't.**

How can I guard against having an attitude that would hinder your working in my life? What must I be on guard against so that I don't short circuit what you want to do in me, with me or through me? **Those are good questions. You may not like my answer.** Why is that? **I have watched you when trials of various kinds have come upon you.** What have you seen? **You certainly haven't welcomed trials into your life as your friends. You have wanted to get over trials as quickly as possible rather than joyfully grow through them.** You want me to be joyful as I go through trials? You want me to welcome trials into my life as my friends? **Yes, I do.** Why is that? **How strong would your faith be if you never went through a trial? How often would you have come to rely on me if you never went through a trial? How have trials strengthened your faith in me? How are trails causing you to grow mature and complete as you continue to love, follow and serve me? Haven't you drawn nearest to me and felt my presence in the midst of every trail you have faced?** I see your point. I now see why I should welcome trials into my life as my friends. I now know without a doubt that you have been working in my life in the midst of every trial that I have faced. I will change my attitude. I will stop whining about the trials I am going through. I will joyfully look with great anticipation for how you will be working in me, with me and through as I go through trials in life. **That will be very good.**

Lord, I have wanted to quickly get over trials rather than joyfully grow through them. I have not welcomed trials into my life as an opportunity to persevere and grow in my faith. Now, do whatever you need to do to make me fully mature and complete in you. Amen

Be *Mature And Complete*

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 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.

NIV James 1:2-4

Be *Perfect And Complete*

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

NLT James 1:2-4

Be *Mature And Complete*

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

NRSV James 1:2-4

Be *Perfectly And Fully Developed*

Consider it wholly joyful, my brethren, whenever you are enveloped in *or* encounter trials of any sort *or* fall into various temptations. Be assured *and* understand that the trial *and* proving of your faith bring out endurance *and* steadfastness *and* patience. But let endurance *and* steadfastness *and* patience have full play *and* do a thorough work, so that you may be [people] perfectly and fully developed [with no defects], lacking in nothing.

AMP James 1:2-4

Be *Perfect And Complete*

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

NASB James 1:2-4

Be *Perfect And Complete*

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

ESV James 1:2-4

Be *Perfect And Complete*

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

NKJV James 1:2-4

Be *Mature And Well-Developed*

Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.

MSG James 1:2-4

Be *Full And Complete*

Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete.

TLB James 1:2-4

Be *Perfect And Complete*

My brothers and sisters, when you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience. Let your patience show itself perfectly in what you do. Then you will be perfect and complete and will have everything you need.

NCV James 1:2-4

Mature And Complete

Year ____ Week ____ Day ____ Date ____

Be – James 1:2-4

In Context: *Read James 1*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God’s Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, I have wanted to quickly get over trials rather than joyfully grow through them. I have not welcomed trials into my life as an opportunity to persevere and grow in my faith. Now, do whatever you need to do to make me fully mature and complete in you. Amen

What It Means:

(What questions speak to your heart?) *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

Why should you be full of joy when you are going through trials in life?

How has your attitude made you able to benefit from the trials you have gone through in life?

When has it been your overwhelming desire to get over rather than grow through a trial?

When have you counted on trial to help you to become mature and complete in Christ?

When have you known without a doubt that a trial was testing your faith and developing endurance in you?

How well developed would your faith be if you had never gone through a trial in life?

How willing are you to allow trials to do a complete and thorough work in your life?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Joyfully welcome trials into your life so that you will become mature and complete as you persevere through them.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that the Lord will use your trials to help you to grow mature and complete in Him.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how a trial has helped you to grow mature and complete in your faith.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you persevere through trials so that the Lord can make you mature and complete.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will persevere through trials so that you can make me mature and complete.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how will you make me mature and complete as I persevere through trials?
