

WHY ME LORD?
HOW TO RISE ABOVE THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF LIFE.

I. EVERYONE HAS TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS IN LIFE.

A. Jesus taught that life was not a cake walk but a faith walk.

John 16:33, “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (NKJV)

II. EVERYONE MUST LEARN HOW NOT TO LET PROBLEMS GET THEM DOWN.

James 1:2-4, “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)

III. EVERYONE MUST LEARN TO APPROACH ALL PROBLEMS AND TRIALS AS OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREAT JOY AND GROWTH IN THE LORD.

A. You are going to face many problems in life.

B. If you believe God, however, and allow Him to work in your life, He will use them for a good and beneficial purpose.

Rom. 8:28, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” (NKJV)

C. A Work together for good” because God can take the experiences you go through and make you a far stronger person, both in your moral behavior and in your understanding of others.

1. When you walk patiently and joyfully like the Scripture says, through the problems and trials of life, you become stronger - more focused, more determined, more steadfast, more confident.

2. Thus, you can be trusted to persevere, to be dependable, and to fulfill your duties.

3. When you rise above trials instead of allowing them to get you down, you become a more mature person humanly and spiritually.

4. When you rise above problems and hardships, you become a dynamic witness for Christ.

5. When you rise above problems and hardships, you demonstrate to others the presence and power of Christ in your life.

- a. You show that God does live in you, and that you can do all things through Him.

IV. EVERY ONE MUST LEARN TO FACE TRIALS AND SUFFERING WITH A SPIRIT OF HAPPINESS.

James 1:2, “Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy.” (TLB)

Let's look at the ways to face trials and temptations with a spirit of happiness:

A. You have to change your way of thinking! How?

- 1. You need to know that the testing of your faith during trials develops patience.

James 1:3, “Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.” (NKJV)

- 2. You need to let patience, which is perseverance, develop within you.

- a. Perseverance means that you endure and keep on enduring, never giving up and never giving in.

- 3. When you will look at these troublesome, challenging, and sometimes painful times as opportunities, you can begin to face them with a joyful spirit.

B. By realizing you are going to be a better person after you endure the trial.

James 1:3-4, “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)

What is going on in your life right now that has robbed you of joy?

Hopefully this lesson will help you to have joy in spite of it.