

Struggling with Difficulties

James 1:2-4

Introduction:

History of a man with many struggles who bounced back and never gave up

Lesson:

I. Difficulties are opportunities

James 1:2

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,”

-How do we view difficulties in our lives

-Many times we feel like victims ...Helpless

-James here says to be joyful about difficulties

-See opportunities

-Where there is a will there is a way attitude.

-Often we hide our problems but God encourages us to confess them so He can use them to make you a better person.

*A sailor once said, “You can’t adjust the wind, but you can adjust the sail”

II. Difficulties help us grow stronger

James 1:3-4

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

-Difficulties and hardships in life can be a real test for many of us

-But, when we make it through it help us to be stronger

-You know the old adage that says what doesn’t kill you will make you stronger.

-The book of Isaiah tells us in 48:10 “Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.”

-Heat in our lives brings the difficulties to the surface and when dealt with make us stronger.

-Its been said that people are like tea bags...you don’t know what they are made of till you put them in hot water.

III. Difficulties give us hope.

Romans 5:1-4

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope”

-Our difficulties give us hope,

-WHY?

-Because they demand faith and God’s leadership

-Without this we would never make it to the heavenly city.

IV. Which leads us to our final thought, Conquered difficulties will lead us home!

-The promise given to the Seven Churches of Asia in the book of Revelation is expressly given to those who “OVERCOME”

-And at the end of Revelation in 21:7 it says “He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.”

-And the right to enter the paradise of God.

Conclusion:

James 1:12 “**Blessed** is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”