

You Can Face Hard Times Joyfully

James 1:1-12

The keys that unlock the door to the power to face difficulties with joy

I. Reflect on the Purpose

- a) Our faith is being tested

1 Peter 1:6-7:

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

- b) It is refining our faith

- 1) be conformed to the image of Christ

Romans 8:²⁸ *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.* ²⁹ *For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son...*

- 2) difficult times produces perseverance

- 3) hard time of trials produces spiritual maturity

II. Trust in the Lord

- a) a call to faith

John 14:1: *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.”*

- b) a call to be dependent upon God

Proverbs 3:5-6: *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”*

III. Look at the Big Picture

- a) a clear perspective of who we are

- b) see ourselves from God’s perspective

IV. Focus on the Reward

- a) A reward of happiness

- b) A reward of crown of life

V. Consider it Pure Joy

- a) being made complete

- b) mature in Christ.