

REJOICE WHEN YOU FALL INTO VARIOUS TRIALS

²My brethren, *count it all joy* when you fall into *various trials*, ³knowing that the *testing of your faith produces patience*. ⁴But let patience have its *perfect work*, that you may be *perfect and complete, lacking nothing*.” (James 1:2-4)

Rejoice in trials? How can that be?

- In the upside down perspective of the **natural world**, this is **impossible** – but with the “**Kingdom Perspective**” it is not only possible but **essential**
 - ⁶*In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,* ⁷*that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,* ⁸*whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,* ⁹*receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.*” (1Peter 1:6-9)
 - “*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*” (Matthew 5:4)
- In order to **reverse** our perspective we must look to the **Kingdom within us** – i.e. the **indwelling of the Holy Spirit**
 - “*For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.*” (Luke 17:21b)
 - ³³*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.* ³⁴*Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*”
- How do we go about **tapping into the Kingdom with?** With **praise and thanksgiving!**
 - “*But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.*” (Psalm 22:3)
 - “*Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.*” (Psalm 100:4)
- This enables us to **fix our eyes on the things of heaven and not the things of this world**
 - ⁸*Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.*” (Philippians 4:8)
 - ¹⁵*Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* ¹⁶*For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.* ¹⁷*And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*” (1John 2:15-17)
- Keeping the “**eyes of our heart**” focused on the **Kingdom of God** we must, through a **conscious act of our will, choose** to “**look within**” and **connect to the indwelling Holy Spirit**
 - This takes **discipline** – i.e., the making of a **disciple**
 - “*Exercise yourself toward godliness.* ⁸*For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.*”
- And, only by **looking inward** even in the **midst of trials** can we tap into the “**joy of the Lord**”
 - “*Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.*” (Nehemiah 8:10)
- And then – and only then – can **God work all things to the good**
 - 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.*” (Romans 8:28)