

Tough Times

James 1:2-4

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Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4 (English Standard Version)

The Big-Picture Truth: Tough times are meant to be growth times.

Insight #1: TOUGH TIMES ARE A PART OF LIFE.

Insight #2: GOD USES TOUGH TIMES TO TEST US.

“When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.” Job 23:10b (New King James Version)

God tests believers by bringing him or her into difficult situations and giving that believer an opportunity to respond with trust and obedience during the time of suffering.

Insight #3: TOUGH TIMES ARE MEANT TO BE GROWTH TIMES.

But be allowing the aforementioned patience to be having its complete work in order that you may be spiritually mature and complete in every detail, lacking in nothing.

James 1:4 (Wuest New Testament)

Insight #4: TOUGH TIMES ARE PROCESSED BEST WITH JOY.

Books quoted from during this message:

- 1) Christ-Following by Trevor Hudson
- 2) The Message of James by J.A. Motyer
- 3) The Divine Conspiracy by Dallas Willard