

The Reality of Trials

- He is writing to the "12 tribes" - Jewish believers who were being persecuted, driven from their homes, and suffering.
- He describes their troubles as "Trials" – which means a test!

The Reality of Trials

- A test is given to positively prove something.
- In this case, believers were having their faith put to the test.



The Reality of Trials

Problems come from:

1. People
2. Our Environment
3. Self



The Response to Trials

- **"Count it all joy..."**
- **This is a conscious commitment to consider your problems from a spiritual standpoint.**

The Response to Trials

- What is a natural response to trials?
- We react and live by our feelings!



The Response to Trials

What is a spiritual response to trials?

- **To act and live by Faith – “rejoice”**
- **To rejoice means to believe God is sovereign and that He is in control of my life.**

The Response to Trials

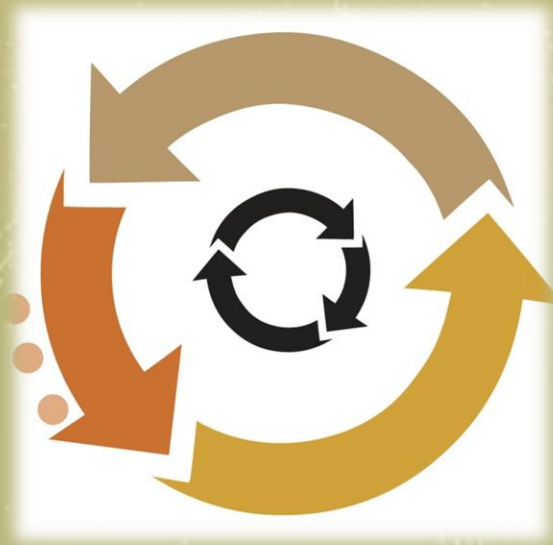
What is a spiritual response to trials?

- To rejoice means to take a step of faith believing that God is working all things for my good (Rom. 8:28)
- To rejoice means to delight in what God is doing.

The Response to Trials

What if I don't rejoice?

- Then I am bound to have to relearn the same lessons over and over and end up going in circles.



The Reasons for Trials

1. Our faith is being tested.
 - There are two sides to a trial:

Luke 22:31-32

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not...

The Reasons for Trials

1. Our faith is being tested.
 - There are two sides to a trial:
 - A. Satan is using it to destroy you.
 - B. God is using it to prove and strengthen your faith.

The Reasons for Trials

2. Spiritual growth comes through endurance.

- “Worketh patience” – to stay under the trial until it changes me.

The Reasons for Trials

2. Spiritual growth comes through endurance.

James 1:4

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

The Results of Trials

He Takes	He Produces
Someone who is hard to love	Genuine selfless love
Circumstances of sorrow	Continuous joy in the midst of pain
Inconveniences	Flexibility and sympathy
Unwelcome responsibilities	Consistent trustworthiness
People who intrude on personal rights	Surrender rights
Evil desires	Self-control

The Results of Trials



