



# **Lights and Perfection, Inc.**

**Go and make disciples!**

E-votional 82

## **Trials**

James 1:2-4 (ESV),

*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

I remember a time in my walk and looking back at it I can see the Lord was preparing me for a great trial that lay ahead. I was in the prison chapel and a Pentecostal woman stopped me on my way out at the end of the service. She said with a somber look on her face, “*brother, God has a word for you, all things work together for good.*” She continued to say, “*that not all things that happen are good, but God will work them all together for good.*”

After this, I brought this prophetic word from this sister back to the other brothers and asked them to pray over this because I did not know what this meant for me. You see, we were in the middle of a great time of revival and refreshment by the Presence of the Lord. A couple of months later, I was completely uprooted and sent to another facility where there was no refreshment or revival from the Presence of the Lord. It was the complete opposite and a time of great persecution occurred for a period of six months. It was so difficult for me that often I cried. I remember how I would even in my sorrow just keep entrusting this to the Lord and recounting this word from this sister.

I could have easily attempted to get out of this situation but it was as if I just knew that the Lord was somehow working all of this together for the good of His will. The persecution increased over this six month period yet at the same time I could see that God’s Kingdom was being established in and through me. In fact, many came to Christ through this season of my life and I personally grew in ways I never thought possible. If I would have found an easy out, I would not have grown as much as I did, and others would not have come to Christ.

Trials in the life of the believer are probably the most effective tool in the hands of

God for perfecting us and calling us deeper into Him. To understand this, I have to look at the early church and understand their heartbeat in Christ. Not many know this, but each of them knew they were called to a level of suffering as Jesus Himself often spoke of suffering in this way (Matthew 24:9).

However, in light of this, they also had their hope set on the Living God and not so much their suffering, for they were promised something far better in heaven and were called to a great work here on earth. To fully understand this, we have to also realize that only one of the original Apostles (John) died of natural causes. Each of the other Apostles died as a martyr for their faith and had to endure great affliction and suffering. Yet despite all of this they wrote Scriptures like the one here about counting it all joy when we meet trials of various kinds.

The truth is that we have certain promises in other places of Scripture that God works all things together for good as found in Romans 8:28 (ESV),

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

In the next verse, we have a more clear reason or rather purpose for why all things work together for good where verse 29 says,

*“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.”*

So, the express purpose for all things working together for good is that we would be conformed to the image of Jesus and that God’s will and purpose would move forward. With that being said, we can return to what James said about counting trials all joy because we know that the testing of our faith produces steadfastness and will cause us to be perfect and complete lacking in nothing. Nevertheless, it is always God who works all these things together in and through us. Praise the Lord!

Since we know these things, what should our response to these things be?

Well, let me just add that a mature Christian freaks out a lot less when troubles come. The new Christian will freak out at the slightest hint of trouble. The point is this, that when one enters severe trials they either believe that God works all things together for good or they don’t. Now, this does not expressly take away the grief of suffering, but it does keep the perspective in it.

It is this simple and because of this, we can never say that we did not know. I tell you the truth, there are still going to be days ahead of me when great trials come

upon me and I instantly have the desire to freak out. But one thing will always remain constant, that God is faithful and when we entrust it all to Him we can be confident that He will see us through for His will and purpose, and when we respond with trust and faith then we will inevitably grow in perfection and steadfastness and will look more and more like Jesus.

I share all of this because I believe the days are coming and are now already here in this nation where being a Christian is going to require that we have this mindset in Christ Jesus. This mindset is full reliance upon God through the Holy Spirit and not carnal wisdom of how to handle trials and tribulations. Rather we entrust it all to Jesus so that He can work all things together for the good of His will and purpose and not our own desires and plans.

There really are only two ways about it. Either we can try to come up with our own plans when we go through trials because we are freaking out or we can leave it to the sovereignty of God to work all things together for good and continue seeking His counsel and wisdom. The difference is either finding an easy out of our suffering and hardships or enduring suffering and hardships so God can get the glory and we can become more mature in Christ and fulfill the calling that God has on us. Remember God's ways are not our ways, for His ways are higher.

Let us endeavor all the more today as we see the day of the Lord approaching to entrust our souls to a faithful creator and to be radical for Jesus and live in the fulness of His mind about the things we go through and the trials we endure. After all, didi not our Lord and Master endure much more for our sake. Let us also remember that we are only here on this earth to live for Him and not to live for ourselves.

Lord, we are broken people in need of Your saving arm to carry us through this life no matter what lies ahead. Give us wisdom and the ability to count the trials we go through as joy while You accomplish Your good and perfect will in us, in Jesus name. Amen.

If you want to check out this teaching in video form click the green button below that says 'Click Here For Video Version.'

In Christ's Love,  
Chris and Jeanne  
Lights and Perfection, Inc

[Click Here For Video Version](#)



©2020 Lights and Perfection, Inc. | 5215 Hartford Lane, Wildwood, FL 34785, US

[Like](#) [Tweet](#)

[Web Version](#) [Preferences](#) [Forward](#) [Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by  
**GoDaddy Email Marketing**®