

Title: The Believer's Response To Trials

Text: 1:2-12

Main Idea: The Lord tells us how to think about and how to respond to trials.

Division Statements:

1. Know that God has a good purpose for our trials (vv. 2-4).

Note: Knowing (v.3) - γινώσκω (ginosko): to come to know, recognize, perceive. We can meet trials with the joy commanded in verse 2 if we recognize God's purpose in them, namely our sanctification (v. 4), and embrace that purpose in our hearts.

2. In faith, meet trials with overcoming joy (vv. 2-3).

Note: Joy (v. 2) - χαρά (chara): joy, delight.

3. Exercise the God-given means to overcoming joy (vv. 3-12):

a. Knowledge (v. 3, 5) - "knowing" (v.3); "wisdom" v. 5.

b. Submission (v. 4) - "but let patience have it's perfect work."

c. Prayer (v. 5) - "if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God."

d. Faith (vv. 6-8) - "but let him ask in faith, with no doubting."

e. Humility (vv. 9-11) - "Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, but the rich in his humiliation"

f. Hope (v. 12) - "Blessed is the man who endures temptation [πειρασμός (peirasmos) - same as verse 2]; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised."

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