

GROWING STRONG

THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT BAD TIMES

James 1:1-4

Jeff Schreve

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. James 1:2-3

Is there really any good news when you are facing bad times?

1. There is the good news of God's grace.

A. Bad times always humble us.

For they have turned their back to Me, and not their face; but in the time of their trouble they will say, "Arise and save us." Jeremiah 2:27

B. Humility always ushers in the grace of God.

But He gives a greater grace. There it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6

2. There is good news of God's work.

A. God uses trials to test the authenticity of our faith.

And the one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word, and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away. Matthew 13:20-21

B. God uses trials to test the strength of our faith.

Consider it all joy ... James 1:2

*** Your values determine your evaluations.**

C. God uses trials to help us grow.

... knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:3-4

*Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?
Mark 4:41*

D. God uses trials to make us shine for Him.

When He has tried me, I shall come forth as gold. Job 23:10

3. There is the good news of God's reward.

Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. James 1:12

A. God knows what you are facing.

B. God will reward all those who stay true to Him.

Will you choose to take the long look and consider it all joy?