

“Developing the Mature Response to Trials” 1/02/11
James 1:1-12

James- Pressing on Toward Spiritual Maturity **Hebrews 5:12**

The spiritually mature will: 1) be patient in trials/testing; 2) practice the truth; 3) control the tongue; 4) be a peacemaker, not a trouble maker; 5) be prayerful in various challenges (Warren Wiersbe on book of James) **Fit bodies/fat brains; flabby bodies AND brains. Some of us are spiritual children... we want all our comforts and a life of ease.... Why don't many of us exercise? It's UNCOMFORTABLE? Laziness/discipline**

POINT 1- We will develop a mature response to trials by REJOICING

- A. We rejoice in trials because we know that it produces ENDURANCE
- B. We rejoice in trials because they are bringing us to spiritual WHOLENESS (1 Pet 4:12; 1 Thess 3:3; Acts 14:22; Phil 1:29; John 16:33; Rom 5:3-4)

**ILL- I bought a gorgeous rug in Israel... ugly on one side.
What believer in OT didn't have any trials? Join the club.**

Think back on difficulties of life and meditate on which ones made you better or worse and why?

POINT 2- We will develop a mature response to trials by REACHING

- A. We are to reach out to God by prayer in asking for WISDOM (we are not asking for deliverance or strength or relief or....)
- B. We are to reach out to God by prayer that is without DOUBT (Hebrews 11:6; with doubt we receive NOTHING from the Lord)

POINT 3- We will develop a mature response to trials by RECOGNIZING

- A. We are to recognize that the trial of being poor exposes its EXALTATION (Revelation 2:9; 2 Corinthians 6:10; 8:9; James 2:5)
- B. We are to recognize that the trial of being rich exposes its HUMILIATION (Revelation 3:17; 1 Timothy 6:6-10; Galatians 3:28)

POINT 4- We will develop a mature response to trials by RECEIVING

- A. We receive these trials as tests to be passed and as ways to BLESSING (Revelation 2:10; 2 Timothy 4:8; greater maturity and greater glory!)

Going Deeper *God wants us to be constantly developing the mature response to trials!*

For next week: The principles of James 1:1-12 in the life of Job. Read Job 1-2; 38-42.