

THE POSITIVE BENEFITS OF TESTS AND TRIALS.

(Kaitaia Abundant Life Centre - 24/9/89 - EKB)

Reading: *Jam 1:2-4*

1. We do not change a lot in times of quietness, peace, and calm.
2. But when the tests and trials come we react to them and if we react in the right way we are changed for the better.
3. *Jam 1:2* says the right way to respond to trials is to “count it all joy.”
4. This means **recognise the benefits** that will come to you as you respond in the right way. *See Job 23:10.*
Also, **secondly**, it is saying, the trial may not seem to be all joy, but **you can count on it** to bring positive increase.
Heb 12:11, 1Pet 1:6 say that trials can be hard to bear but some people master them through praise and worship to God. *Ac 16:25, Mat 5:12, Lk 6:23, Ac 5:41.*
Do not get discouraged however if you find trials hard to bear. Avoid blaming God or becoming bitter. Avoid unforgiveness towards those who hurt you, and refuse fear, discouragement, and doubt.
Know **thirdly**, that as we **stand in faith in God and His Word**, the devil loses and we win. God will fulfil His promises in our lives.
See Gen 50:20, Rom 8:28, Ac 16:26-34, 2Tim 4:16-18.
God will turn the trial into a blessing and an increase, *1Sam 30:1-20*. The key verse is the last part of v6.
Ps 4:1 “Lord You have enlarged me when I was in pressure”.
5. **The trial is a trial of our faith**, *Jam 1:3, 1Pet 1:6,7.*
It is a part of the good fight of faith, *1Tim 6:12, 2Tim 4:7.*
A good fight is a fight **we win**. God intends us to win every battle of faith, not to lose. Read *Rom 4:19-21*. This is how Abraham fought the good fight of faith and won.
6. The key to winning the fight of faith is by **confessing the good confession** of God’s Word. *See 1Tim 6:12, 1Tim 6:13.*
Jesus fought a good fight of faith before Pilate, the Jews, and in every situation, *Mat 26: 62-64, Jn 18:33-38.*
Hold fast the confession of your faith, or hope without wavering, for faithful is He who promised, *Heb 10:23.*
The Lord will fulfil His Word as we stand in faith. *Num 23:19, Is 55:11, Lk 1:37, Jer 1:12, 1Thes 5:24, Heb 6:12, 3:1, 4:14, 1Jn 5:4.*
7. **Endurance** is developed in us as we stand in faith through trials, *Jam 1:3, Rom 5:3.*
This is inward strength to stand, overcome, and be victorious as a conqueror.
Rev 3:21, Rev 21:7, 1Jn 4:4, Gal 5:24, Rev 12:11.
See power to overcome in two of David’s mighty men, *2Sam 23:9,10,11,12*, Eleazar and Shammah. *Mat 24:13, Heb 10:36, Lk 21:19*, in the Amplified Version.

8. **Godly mature character** or Christ-likeness is God's goal for our lives, *Rom 8:29*, and as endurance increases in us through standing by faith in trials, so does godly mature character, leading to wholeness, or fulness from God, *Col 2:10*.
God's Word works powerfully in each believer as we stand by faith, *1Thes 2:13, Heb 4:12*.
9. **Jesus said** there is great reward to those who endure tests and trials.
Mat 5:11,12, Lk 6:22,23, see also 1Pet 1:3-7.