

Rejoice in Difficulty

August 17, 2008 Hub City Vineyard
Chris Schlotterbeck, Pastor

James 1:1-8

Reasons for Difficulty

1. Christians encounter trials when they forsake Jesus.

Romans 6:12-13

"Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness."

2. Christians encounter trials because they follow Jesus.

Matthew 5:10-11

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me."

3. Christians encounter trials everyday.

James 1:1-2

"James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds."

Natural Reactions

Fear, Self Pity, Envy, Anger, Sin

James 1:13-14

"When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each of you is tempted when you are dragged away by your own evil desire and enticed."

Steps to Rejoicing

1. Realize we have the freedom to choose our response.

2 Corinthians 3:17

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

2. Accept we can find joy in our trials.

James 1:2

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds."

Romans 5:3

"Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance."

1 Peter 1:6

"In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials."

3. Understand trials produce Christian maturity in our lives.

James 1:3-4

“...because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

Ephesians 4:14

“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.”

4. Rejoice that trials give us the ability to not give up.

James 1:4-5

“Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”