

James 1:2-5

James 1:2-5 KJV - My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; [3] Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. [4] But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. [5] If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Brethren, I am thoroughly convinced that we are confronted with divers trials, complexities, and pressures more so than any previous generation. These are indeed the perilous times that Paul forewarned Timothy would come. We are seeing all the attitudes that Paul described in II Timothy 3 rise up against the church and the ministry. With that pressure of these perilous times, we see those divers, manifold trials produced. Yet, James admonished us to “count it all joy” when ye fall into divers temptations!

Why could we view manifold trials and tests and pressures and perils as JOY!? Because friction always creates more strength for the elements that don't break. James said we must know that the trying or testing of our faith WORKETH patience. We need the knowledge that God doesn't allow friction to break us. Still, the testing WORKS out all the elements and impurities that would cause us as men to succumb to the pressures of our age, and that working, that friction, that pressure, WORKS patience or endurance into us so that we can stand in the evil day!

The pressure that hell applies to the church and the ministry in this hour of great peril, God allows to WORK the necessary elements into our spirits and to face the “horsemen” of our age.

We must allow patience to have her complete work so that we may be perfect and entire, lacking nothing.

I believe verse five is where we are, as ministers and pastors - “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally...”

Think about this brethren: GOD CALLED US FOR A TIME SUCH AS THIS!!! Wow! In this pressure cooker of an hour, God called us!! He chose us!!

As human beings, we know our inadequacies and our shortcomings. We know our proclivities and personal struggles. Measured up to the manifold trials we are seeing, we feel so outwitted, so outmaneuvered and outgunned. How many days have we felt at our wit's end beneath all the pressure we are feeling?

How many situations are we currently facing where we feel so ill-equipped and unprepared to handle? How many questions have bombarded us of late from good saints who are under the gun that we just simply don't have the answers for?

Yet, every trial and hardship we've ever endured, every testimony the elders have shared with us has been given to WORK into us the necessary elements to be able to endure and even thrive in this fiery furnace. We must resurrect our KNOWLEDGE that the trying of our faith WORKETH patience. God has not left us defenseless and without answers.

Brethren, in our human limitations, we need the wisdom of God to be imparted unto us. We recognize in our flesh there is no good thing. But every good and perfect gift cometh down from the Father of lights in whom there is no variableness nor shadow of turning.

These perils and this pressure do not take God by surprise. They will not force him to turn and run, casting the shadow of doubt and fear upon us. He has prepared us for a time such as this. Every good and perfect gift comes from Him!

Proverbs 4:7 KJV

Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *therefore* get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

The principal gift we need in our era is WISDOM from above. Not our human ingenuity, not programs, but Holy Ghost wisdom that propels us forward in this day and grants us the fortitude and the righteous judgments to have revival and properly instruct God's people even in the middle of divers temptations!

I believe it can be done. We must ask God to pour out a liberal supply of wisdom so that the light of the church can shine brighter than it ever has! The gates of hell shall NOT prevail against the church! We are battle-tested, and we will triumph in Jesus' Name!

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