

The Call to Fresh Surrender

James 1:2-4 Week 1

James 1:2 Consider it wholly joyful, my brethren, whenever you are enveloped in or encounter trials of any sort or fall into various temptations. 3 Be assured and understand that the trial and proving of your faith bring out endurance and steadfastness and patience. 4 But let endurance and steadfastness and patience have full play and do a thorough work, so that you may be [people] perfectly and fully developed [with no defects], lacking in nothing. AMP

Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. NIV

Adversity comes in the life of a believer for one of three reasons:

1. Correction
I believe God is always trying to teach us so we can learn, really learn, how to overcome our own flaws and flesh.
2. Sometimes adversity comes for enlargement.
 - The goal: Christ-likeness
 - We must have a life that brings God joy.
3. Testimony
 - He is never done refining and teaching us.
 - We are partakers in His blessings, His love, His wisdom, and His power.

So what is the key?

I believe it's an unceasing, absolute dependence on God, that allows Him to not just live in us, but to manifest His presence to others through us.

OK, how?

- We must exchange our lives for God's humility.
- Dependence on God cannot happen without humility and presenting ourselves as totally empty vessels that God can dwell in and manifest His life and power in us.
- Think on this: Redemption is God's way of restoring lost humility to a world that knows very little about it.
- Humility, according to Murray, gave death its value.
- Humility is the root of our relationship with God.
- So then, the loss of humility is the root of all evil and sin, and releases man's pride.

- We fail because we keep trying to put our flesh to death instead of replacing it with the life of Christ.
- When the flesh wants to “jump me” and take over, I must, in prayer, turn to Christ.
- Fresh surrender are just words until I learn, by faith, to implement surrender in my daily life.
- We must learn to settle for nothing less than death to ourselves, relying totally on Christ, before humility can reach its potential.
- Tom Elliff shared this: “Fresh-not previously done; something completely new”. “Surrender: Faithful; a fresh giving up of oneself; voluntarily cooperating with God.”

Final Thoughts:

I can't trust my own strength to accomplish this, but must learn the life of Christ. OK, how?

1. Recognize our own pride when it comes to handling the tough people and circumstances of life.
2. Learn what motivates our surrender.
Joseph was humble and served faithfully.
3. Learn how to measure our success from God's eyes.
4. When we place all we are in God's hands, He will truly be glorified and others will see that we have been with Jesus.
5. Without a servant's heart and attitude, we have nothing in common with Christ.