

5 Keys To Victory

Text: James 1:2-4

James 1:2-4

- 2** *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.*

James 1:2-4 (AMP)

- 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.*

James 1:2 (MSG) – *Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides.*

James 1:2 (NLT) – *Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.*

James 1:2 (NIV) – *Consider it pure joy...*

[5 KEYS TO VICTORY]

I. INTRODUCTION

A. THE JEWELER'S WATER TEST

1. The Book of Job reminds us that trouble and trials are inevitable.

- a. **Job 5:7** – *Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.*
 - (1) Since this is the case, we need to understand how to face the trials that will surely come our way.
- 2. There is a test that jewelers will use to determine whether or not a diamond is authentic and not ersatz.
 - a. It is a very simple test, indeed.
 - b. It is called **THE WATER TEST**.
 - (1) I am told that a fake diamond loses its brilliance when it is submerged in water, but a real diamond does not.
 - (a) Can I tell you that there is a “water test” for Christians that will determine whether or not we are authentic or ersatz?
 - (b) True Christians will not lose their luster and brilliance when they are submerged in the trials of life!
- 3. There are **FIVE KEYS** to consistent victory for Christians when we are in the midst of a trial.
 - a. Allow me to share them with you this morning...

II. **BODY**

A. **KEY #1 – AN ATTITUDE OF JOY**

- 1. The first Key to Victory in the midst of our trials is that we must have an **ATTITUDE OF JOY**.
 - a. **James 1:2** – *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into diverse (different) temptations.*
 - (1) To “count” means “to consider; to evaluate.”
 - (a) Joy is not a natural human response to troubles and trials.

(b) You must make a conscious commitment to face each trial with an attitude of joy.

(c) **Philippians 4:4, 11** –

1) ***4 Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.***

2) ***11 (NIV) Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.***

2. It is important that you understand that Paul made these statements while he was in prison – and prison then was not the comfortable atmosphere of home that it is today!

a. He said that we should count it – we should consider it – a sheer gift of pure joy WHEN we are faced with tests and challenges.

b. The word “when” conveys the idea of an unplanned, inadvertent occurrence that surrounds you.

(1) Consider with me the story of the Good Samaritan who found a man who “FELL” among thieves...

(2) That poor man did not PLAN to be beaten and robbed – it was an unplanned and inadvertent occurrence that was brought upon him unexpectedly.

(a) In Acts 27, Paul was a prisoner on a ship that FELL into a place where two seas met...

(b) They got caught up in some crosscurrents that caused them to hit a reef, sticking the front of the ship in the sandbar.

(c) With the front of their ship stuck in the sandbar, the back of the ship began to break apart as the waves beat violently against it.

- 1) They were in a place of turbulence...
 - 2) It was a place they did not plan to be...
 - 3) And a storm they were not expecting put them there!
3. Sometimes life sends us a storm that forces us into a crosscurrent of turmoil...
 - a. These storms have a way of altering our sense of direction and our sense of security, breaking up what we have come to believe is a place of refuge, and causing us to have to grab on to anything that floats in order to survive!
 - (1) Sometimes, what we perceive to be a storm, however, is nothing more than God disciplining us.
 - (a) **Hebrews 12:11 (AMP) – *For the time being no discipline brings joy, but seems grievous and painful; but afterwards it yields a peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it [a harvest of fruit which consists in righteousness — in conformity to God's will in purpose, thought, and action, resulting in right living and right standing with God].***
 - (b) **Hebrews 12:11 (NLT) – *No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.***
4. So, if you want to live a life of victory when the storms come, learn to cultivate a right attitude – an attitude of joy.
 - a. Jesus said in **John 16:20-22**...

- (1) **20** *Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.*
- (2) **21** *A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.*
- (3) **22** *And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.*

- 5. You've got to learn how to look beyond the trial and see the end of it!
 - a. In **Acts 16:25**, we find Paul and Silas in prison, and *"at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them."*
 - (1) This is the attitude we need for survival!
 - (2) If you can learn to pray and sing praises while trying to survive the dungeon of depressing troubles, you will surely know the victory of the Lord!
 - (a) To do this, you must be able to see beyond the moment.
 - (b) Most of us SAY we believe that God is going to see us through, so...
 - (c) If you know in the end that everything will turn out okay, then why worry in the midst of the storm?
 - (d) Put your trust in the Master of the Storm and know that "THIS TOO SHALL PASS!"
- 6. In **II Corinthians 12:7-9**, we read something of interest concerning a problem that Paul was dealing with...

- a. **II Corinthians 12:7-9** – *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. [8] For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. [9] And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

- (1) The real need oftentimes is NOT the elimination of the trial – but **THE GRACE TO ENDURE IT!**

- (a) **Romans 8:18** – *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

- 7. We can joyfully endure suffering in the present because of the glorious future that is promised to us!
 - a. We need to ask ourselves today...
 - (1) **Do our trials make us bitter or better?**

B. KEY #2 – AN UNDERSTANDING MIND

- 1. The second key to a victorious life is that we must have AN UNDERSTANDING MIND.
 - a. **James 1:3** – *Know this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*
- 2. There are a few things you’ve got to know...
 - a. You must come to know the reason for the testing.
 - (1) Trials are designed to produce patience.
 - (2) It is important that we understand that.
 - (a) The word “endurance” in our text means, **“patiently waiting on God to remove the trial” – IN HIS TIME!**

3. God builds us up the same way a runner gradually develops the ability to run long distances.
 - a. The runner starts small and works up to his maximum capacity.
 - (1) In the same manner, God allows increasingly greater trials in our lives to increase our spiritual endurance.
 - (2) The more difficult the battle, the sweeter the victory!
4. Let us consider together what some of the Patriarchs of Passion have said:
 - a. DAVID (in Psalms 40:1-4) –
 - (1) *I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.*
 - (2) *He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.*
 - (3) *And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.*
 - (4) *Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.*
 - b. PAUL (in I Corinthians 10:13) –
 - (1) *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*
 - c. PAUL (again, in II Thessalonians 1:3-4) –
 - (1) *We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches*

of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

C. KEY #3 – A SUBMISSIVE WILL

1. The third Key to Victorious Living in the midst of a trial is that we must have A SUBMISSIVE WILL.
 - a. James said in verse 4 of our text, *“But let patience have her perfect work.”*
2. Whatever you do, **don’t fight the trial!**
 - a. The only productive way out of a trial is for you to **GO THROUGH IT!**
3. **Psalm 37:5** – *Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass.*

D. KEY #4 – A BELIEVING HEART

1. The fourth Key to Victory is that you must have A BELIEVING HEART.
 - a. **Proverbs 3:5-6** – *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.*
2. When going through a trial, you must put your faith in God’s wisdom and not in your own.
3. The key is understanding that God is in control; and for us to have victory in the MIDST of a trial, we must believe that He can – AND WILL – take care of everything.
 - a. Paul’s prayer in **II Thessalonians 1:2** was for us to have grace and peace...
 - (1) He said, *“Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

- (a) If you will put your faith – your trust – in the Lord, you will find His grace and peace in the midst of your storm!

E. KEY #5 – AN HUMBLE SPIRIT

1. In closing today, the fifth Key to Victory I want to share with you is simply this:
 - a. We must maintain AN HUMBLE SPIRIT.
2. James 1:9 – *Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:*
 - a. James 1:9 (AMP) – *Let the brother in humble circumstances glory in his elevation [as a Christian, called to the true riches and to be an heir of God].*
 - (1) James 1:9 (NIV) – *The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position.*
 - (a) James 1:9 (TLB) – *A Christian who doesn't amount to much in this world should be glad, for he is great in the Lord's sight.*
 - 1) James 1:9 (MSG) – *When down-and-outers get a break, cheer!*
3. 1 Peter 5:6 – *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*
 - a. 1 Peter 5:6 (AMP) – *Therefore humble yourselves [demote, lower yourselves in your own estimation] under the mighty hand of God, that in due time He may exalt you.*
 - (1) 1 Peter 5:6 (MSG) – *So be content with who you are, and don't put on airs. God's strong hand is on you; he'll promote you at the right time.*

III. CLOSE

A. RECAPPING THE 5 KEYS TO VICTORY:

1. **KEY #1** – We must have an attitude of joy.
2. **KEY #2** – We must have an understanding mind.
3. **KEY #3** – We must have a submissive will
4. **KEY #4** – We must have a believing heart.
5. **KEY #5** – We must have an humble spirit.
6. If we will live by these **FIVE KEYS**, we will live a life of victory
– even in the midst of terrible trials!

B. ALTAR CALL