

## “HOW TO SMILE IN YOUR TRIAL” (James 1:2-4)

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**INTRO:** We're to count it all joy when we face trials. Why? Because of knowing that trials help us grow if we stay the course.

### WHAT IS A TRIAL?

1. The Greek word for “*trial*” means “*adversity*” or “*test*”.
2. Webster - 1: “*the action or process of trying or putting to the proof*”: Test. 3: “*a source of vexation or annoyance*”: tribulation, affliction.
3. Summary: Trials **test** your faith which reveals the condition of your faith.

### WHERE DO TRIALS COME FROM? WHY DO TRIALS COME?

#### FIVE SOURCES OF TRIALS:

1. God
2. Satan
3. Others
4. Ourselves
5. Life

#### I. TRIALS ARE INEVITABLE, UNFORSEEABLE & VARIABLE (2).

- A. Trials are Inevitable (v. 2a). **“when”** not **“if”**
- B. Trials are Unforeseeable (v. 2b). **“fall into”**
- C. Trials are Variable (v. 2c). **“various trials”**

#### II. TRIALS TEST OUR FAITH & DEVELOP OUR PERSEVERANCE (v. 3).

- A. Trials Test our Faith (v. 3a; 1Pet. 1:6-7).  
**“the testing of your faith”** (v. 3a).
  1. Trials reveal the present condition of your faith.
- B. Trials Develop our Perseverance (v. 3b).
  1. Faith to calm a storm & faith to weather a storm.
  2. Learn to weather storms before calming storms.

#### III. TRIALS MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO MAKE US COMPLETE (v. 4).

- A. Trials Must be Completed (v. 4a) – no shortcuts!  
**“But let patience have its perfect work, ...”** (v. 4a).
- B. Completed Trials Make Us Complete (v. 4b).  
**“that you may be perfect [mature] and complete, lacking nothing.”** (v. 4b).

**CONCLUSION:** You can learn to smile in your trial! How? Count it all joy when you face a trial because you know that your faith is going to grow as long as you persevere!