

Mt. Lebanon Church

Teaching Ministry

1.5.2025

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Counting All Things Joy

James 1: 1 – 8, 12 – 18

As believers, we are encouraged by the word of God, to continue to find spiritual joy as we go through difficult and trying circumstances in our life in Christ. This means, that we should not pray that trials and temptations will not come, but we need to pray that God will give unto us the wisdom, and the knowledge to understand his divine purpose while in the midst of the trials that we face. Therefore, the key to accepting the consequences of our trials and tribulations is to maintain a positive attitude throughout our afflictions. Believers who suffer effectively through trials and tribulations will receive understanding from God, and this understanding will exceed any blessings that we could ever gain in the world. Our faith only grows stronger when we are tested by trials and tribulations, which come by the grace and mercy of God.

1 Peter 1: 7,....that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ....

Trusting God through our trials and tribulations is a step in the right direction to becoming more Christlike, which means having a greater, more in depth, spiritual maturity, that produces greater endurance in our life in Christ. This makes our relationship between our love for God, and our ability in God to remain faithful especially in times of trials and tribulations, which makes our relationship grow stronger, and redefines our trust in God, which increases our dependence upon the Lord. As Christians, we need this, because we do not have the capacity to stand firm in this world by our own strength. It is imperative that we remain rooted and grounded in the word of God, and not to rely on our own sufficiency and strength. Let us remember that the difficulties that we face in life can cause us to stumble and fall, and in doing so will tempt us to fall prey to the deception of doubt and despair in our life. Therefore, we must continually seek to stand firm in Christ, and we do this through the leadership and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, as we hold fast to the promises of God, which will not only eternally benefit ourselves, and also others in the body of Christ, but also works toward the greater glory of God.

James 1: 1 – 8,....James, a servant of God....my brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations....knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience....let patience have her perfect work....perfect and entire, wanting nothing....if any....lack wisdom, let him ask of God....let him ask in faith, nothing wavering....for let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the lord....a double minded man is unstable in all his ways....

What is it that describes our own relationship with God. We are his servants. Once we come to Christ by faith believing, and we have received his forgiveness for our sinfulness, we are now empowered by the Holy Spirit, and it is by that power that we now have the ability to resist sin. Therefore, we are no longer slaves to sin, because sin is no longer our master, we now have become slaves, or servants of the righteousness of God. This is because, we now belong to God, and we want to do those things that please him, therefore, we have now become obedient to Christ, and to his word, and we are no longer under the penalty of death, and we are no longer separated from God.

Romans 1: 1,....a servant of Jesus Christ....separated unto God....

Now, while we are now set free from sin, we still live in the presence of sin, and the only way that we can continue to be free from the power of sin is by the power of the Holy Spirit that indwells within us. This seals us in Christ, and we have now become bondservants or slaves of Christ.

1 Corinthians 7: 22 – 24,....he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lords freeman, likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ servant....ye are bought with a price....let everyman, wherein he is called, therein abide with God....

A bondservant, or a person that is committed to the Lord, is willing to follow him all the days of their lives.

How often do we desire a life free from trouble, and how often do we pray for a way of escape from the trials and tribulations that we face. If God would allow this to always be so in our life, it would leave us without recognizing the important lessons that come through the circumstances of our life, lessons which God desires for us to learn. These lessons teach us spiritual truths, truths that we might have otherwise missed out on. These difficult trials are used by God to test our faith in him, so that he may bring us into a deeper, more consistent dependency in our faith in him, and in his unconditional love.

James 1: 12 – 15,....blessed is the man that endureth temptation, for when he is tried, he shall receive a crown of life....let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God....every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed....then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin, and sin....bringeth forth death....do not err....

Temptations are going to come, but be certain that God does not send them, but he does allow them to occur in our life. Any kind of worldly desire conceived in the wrong way, whether good or bad, can lead us into sin. The desire to commit sin comes from within, and sin occurs when we yield to these worldly temptations and lustful desires.

Temptations come through worldly enticements that are meant to trigger our worldly desires of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

1 John 2: 15 – 17,....love not the world, neither the things that are in the world....the lust of the flesh....the lust of the eyes....the pride of life....the world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever....

Sadly, it is not if we will give into temptation, but when we give into temptation, then we will sin, but when we resist, then God will turn that temptation into a meaningful trial, which he will use for his greater good, and for his greater glory. God, in his wisdom and grace gave unto all of humanity free will, so that we may make our own choices. This means that when we are tempted, it is our choice whether we sin or not, but the choice which we are actually making is not a choice of whether to sin or not to sin, but a choice of whether we are going to follow after the pathway of his righteousness, yielding to the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, a pathway of obedience or disobedience to his word. We are responsible for the choices that we make, and the consequences that will follow.

Jerimiah 17: 9 – 10,....the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, who can know it....I the Lord search the heart....

Sometimes the truth hurts, especially when we try to justify our sinful choices. Each one is tempted to sin, and anyone who gives into that temptation will stand silent before God (without excuse), for it is his own inner passion that carries him away.

James 1: 17 – 18,....every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variable....of his own will begat he us with the word of truth....

God is the source of all wisdom, knowledge and understanding, and unlike temptation and its variables, which is always changing, God never changes and is the author of the word of truth and of the faith which we have. God's word of faith and truth is the word by which the gospel is preached.

1 Peter 1: 25,....but t he word of the Lord endureth forever....and this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you....

It is God's love that enables us to endure all that he allows to take place in our life. We must be careful not to confuse our lustful desires with the will of God. Let us remember that a godly life begins with a proper understanding of Gods nature, and also an understanding of his purpose and will for humanity, which is set forth in his word. This is what constitutes in our life in Christ counting all things joy, even when we fall prey to temptation.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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