

Transformational Discipleship

Discovering how we grow closer to Christ

The Posture of Transformation Part 1: Weakness James 1:2-4

Introduction:

There is a distinct difference between what the world views as successful and what God indicates is success for a believer. Unfortunately, these two definitions are often merged—health, wealth, and success are called blessings. However, the Scriptures tell us that God’s power is perfected in our weakness and there are ***Blessings of Suffering***:

I. The C_____ of T_____ (v. 2)

“... strengthening the disciples by encouraging them to continue in the faith and by telling them, ‘It is necessary to pass through many troubles on our way into the kingdom of God.’” Acts 14:22

“Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation? ³⁰If boasting is necessary, I will boast about my weaknesses.” 2 Corinthians 11:23-30

II. The G_____ of E_____ (v. 3)

“My heart is confident, God, my heart is confident.

I will sing; I will sing praises

⁸Wake up, my soul!

Wake up, harp and lyre!

I will wake up the dawn.

⁹I will praise You, Lord, among the peoples;

I will sing praises to You among the nations.

¹⁰For Your faithful love is as high as the heavens;

Your faithfulness reaches the clouds.

¹¹God, be exalted above the heavens;

let Your glory be over the whole earth.”

Psalm 57:7-11

“You rejoice in this, though now for a short time you have had to struggle in various trials ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—more valuable than gold, which perishes though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus

Christ.”

1 Peter 1:6-7

III. The G_____ of M_____ (v. 4)

“And not only that, but we also rejoice in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, ⁴endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. ⁵This hope will not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

Romans 5:3-5

“You are blessed when they insult and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of Me. ¹²Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matthew 5:11-12