



How can I be joyful when bad stuff keeps happening to me? *Moving From Victim to Victor*

Read James 1:2-6

Takeaways from the Message:

James knows that we are all going to go through trials. As human beings we are going to face hard times, whoever you are. James doesn't say here to pretend that everything is okay. He doesn't say that you need to be smiling during your trial. But he says count it joy, because as you go through your trial you will grow.

When we go through trials and hard times, often the first thing that disappears is wisdom. We make unwise choices. That is why, when trials and problems come, we need to pray for wisdom.

When we change our perspective on our trials and problems, we move from being a victim of our situations, to being victors over them, as we grow and develop through them.

Something to reflect on:

1. When you go through tough times, do you ask God for wisdom (do you ask God to take away your problems or help you learn through them)? How does this passage fit in with your answer?
2. How have you grown through past trials and problems?
3. Are you currently going through any trials? If so, how does James' advice change how you are going to pray?

Further Reading

Books:

[God on Mute, Pete Greig](#) | [Where is God when it hurts?, Philip Yancey](#)

Podcasts:

[Embracing The Dark Silence of God, Pete Scazzero](#) | [Jane Kelsall's Story](#)