

3 Keys to enduring Trials James 1:4-12

I want to share with you some key verses before we begin to study 3 keys to enduring trials.

Proverbs 4:5 (KJV) ⁵ Get wisdom, get understanding: forget *it* not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

Proverbs 19:8 (KJV) ⁸ He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.

Psalms 119:89 (KJV) ⁸⁹ For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

3 John 1:2 (KJV) ² Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

Matthew 16:19 (KJV) ¹⁹ And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

John 17:14 (KJV) ¹⁴ I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Isaiah 55:11 (KJV) ¹¹ So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it. (Simply said, His Word is His Will).

Ephesians 1:11 (KJV) ¹¹ In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

James 1:4-12 (KJV)

⁴ But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

⁶ But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

⁷ For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

⁸ A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

James 1:2 (KJV) ² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations (trials);

As we study this passage of scripture, we need to understand that **joy and understanding are supernatural responses to trials.**

Joy is available through the presence of God in our trials and through our will to endure for Christ sake.

Joy for a Christian does not depend upon circumstances.

The word, “understand,” is equal to full knowledge through experience.....**Our experiences filtered through God and undergirded by God’s word.**

We know, by experience and based upon the truth of God’s word, that:

after the trial,
after the test,
after the suffering,
after the affliction,

our faith will be strong! **Our faith will hold!**

“The Anchor Holds” is a great song that presents that truth! The story behind the writing of “The Anchor Holds” is inspiring and encouraging.

Lawrence Mendel Chewning Jr. is a Christian recording artist, songwriter, and speaker. He was born in 1949 and grew up in rural South Carolina. He was the son of a cotton farmer, ginner and merchant. At the age of eight he accepted Christ at a country church in South Carolina. After he graduated he moved to Anderson, Indiana to attend Anderson University to major in Religion and Social Work. During his junior year a massive revival outbreak spread throughout colleges which became known as the Asbury Awakening. It started one morning in 1970, without warning, what has been described as a “divine visitation” broke loose during Asbury College’s 10 am chapel service in Wilmore Kentucky. Dr. David Hunt, a Louisville physician who was then a student stated, “You just walked in and sensed that God had indeed sent His Spirit.” The service, a routine meeting, was scheduled for 50 minutes. Instead, it lasted 185 hours non-stop, 24 hours a day. Intermittently, it continued for weeks and spread throughout many colleges.

During this same year Chewning started travelling full time with a group of his friends that formed a gospel band known as the Fishermen. They witnessed on the streets, spoke and sung in churches all over. This was the time that Chewning began song writing, and within a couple of years this band evolved into a music group singing original songs he wrote. The group was based out of Anderson, Indiana but travelled

performing in coffee houses, college and high school campuses, Jesus festivals and outdoor concerts throughout the Midwest, the South and the New England states. They were right in the middle of the Jesus Movement that began on the West Coast of the United States in the late 1960's and early 70's and spread primarily through North American and Europe until about the early 1980's. In which a new genre of music was born that we know as contemporary Christian music today. The Fishermen were together from 1970 to 1977. It is stated that a teenage boy named Ray Boltz accepted Christ while attending one of the Fishermen's concerts at a Christian coffeehouse in Hartford City, Indiana. He is now known as an award winning Christian recording artist.

A new band was formed in 1978 called Lawrence Chewning & Eastland Band. They moved to New England and did a number of concerts there for a couple of years. He moved there with his wife living in Marlborough, Massachusetts. In the beginning of 1979 Chewning and his wife moved to Clinton, Massachusetts and resided there for 16 years where Chewning co-pastored a non-denominational church.

The year of 1992 became known as the year of sorrows for this family. It was a trying time as it seemed like an accumulation of one sorrow after another during this time. They had become discouraged and depressed after their third miscarriage which was a little boy. Chewning took a six month sabbatical from pastoring in which he started playing the piano once more to get closer to God. He read some things about the long dark night of the soul when it seems that you just can't find God anywhere. He stated he had experienced this void for few months. He would play the piano for hours at a time. Then one day he started playing a song he realized he had never heard before. He realized that it was because he was in the process of writing it. It was truly a song coming from

deep down as he sang after a while he realized he had a song over ten minutes long. It was a therapeutic song for him personally that helped him through his discouragement and depression.

This song is titled "The Anchor Holds."

In the spring of 1993, Chewning went to a Ray Boltz concert in Maine where he told him about this song during a time of sharing together after the concert. A few months later Boltz called him to see if he could sing it. Chewning sent the song to Boltz "in the rough" and told him that he was free to adapt it for his purposes. Ray reworked some of the lyrics, shortened it a bit, and added a musical bridge. Finally in 1994 this song was recorded on Boltz's "Allegiance" project. "The Anchor Holds" was later released for national radio airplay and quickly rose to #1 position on the Inspirational charts. It remained #1 for three weeks.

I have journeyed through the long dark night
Out on the open sea, by faith alone
Sight unknown; and yet His eyes were watching me
The anchor holds
Though the ship is battered
The anchor holds
Though the sails are torn
I have fallen on my knees as I face the raging seas
The anchor holds in spite of the storm
I've had visions, I've had dreams
I've even held them in my hand
But I never knew they would slip right through
Like they were only grains of sand
The anchor holds
Though the ship is battered
The anchor holds

**Though the sails are torn
I have fallen on my knees as I face the raging seas
The anchor holds in spite of the storm**
I have been young but I'm older now
And there has been beauty these eyes have seen
**But it was in the night, through the storms of my life
Oh, that's where God proved His love for me
The anchor holds
Though the ship's been battered
The anchor holds
Though the sails are torn
I have fallen on my knees as I face the raging seas
The anchor holds in spite of the storm
I have fallen on my knees as I face the raging seas
The anchor holds in spite of the storm**
Songwriters: Lawrence Chewning / Ray Boltz
The Anchor Holds lyrics © Warner/Chappell Music, Inc

So with that information, we will look at **3 keys which unlock the solutions which enable us to endure the trials we are going to experience in this life.**

I. 1st. Key, a submissive will

As we look at this, we need to understand what God says to us about the various trials we will definitely experience in this life. Let me read again, **James 1:2-4 (NKJV)** - ² My brethren, **count it all joy** when you **fall** into various trials, ³ **knowing that the testing** of your faith **produces patience.** ⁴ **But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.**

1 Peter 4:19 (NKJV) -- ¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

Note: In James 1:2, the word **fall** is used in connection with the various trials. The Greek word translated fall carries the meaning of: to *fall* into something that is all *around* (Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary). In other words, he is telling us that trials are all around us. In addition, the word fall gives us an added insight that it is something not expected or which comes upon us suddenly.

So, some of the things we need to understand concerning the various trials we encounter in this life are:

- A. The only way out of a trial we find ourselves in is to go through it to the other side.
- B. **God does not promise a way out, but a way through**, and **He also promises to be with us in the midst of the trial**, just as He was with Daniel in the lion's den and the Hebrew children in the fiery furnace.
- C. **Submission is not a suggestion it is a necessity**.
 - a. You will go through trials - **1 Peter 4:12 (NKJV) -**
¹² Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;
 - b. You may go through the trial **with God** or **without God** and

c. **You determine by your will, which it will be.**

D. Experience of our own past trials, or the experience and witness of other believers, or the experience of the testimony of God's word leads us to "know" and to "fully" understand **that we can rejoice in trials.**

Most of us are inclined to allow FEAR to control our lives when we find ourselves in a trial. For that reason, we need to be thoroughly grounded in the Word of God. The words "fear not" or "not fear" are found in the KJV Bible 701 times but there are a total of 6787 occurrences where fear and not are used which convey to us the truth that **fear should not be a part of our lives.**

There are at least two truths out of this study we need to get implanted in our hearts.

- a. **Trials can not harm us** -- Isaiah 43:2 (NKJV) -- ² When you pass through the waters, I *will be* with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.

- b. **Trials are for our good** (Romans 8:28) **Romans 8:28-30** (NKJV) -- ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

We also need to understand the purpose for the trials we encounter in this life:

God uses the trials in our lives:

1. To strengthen our faith
2. To humble us
3. To wean us from self-reliance to dependency on Him
4. To call us to a heavenly hope
5. To expose to us our true love
6. To teach us how to value God's blessings
7. To develop strength for future battles
8. To prepare us for ministry
9. To grow us to understand we can fully trust His Word.

c. **Knowledge of the Word of God produces joy in our trials**

1. **Joy is produced when the trial has had its "perfect work"**
 - a. Not moral perfection
 - b. Not Spiritual perfection
 - c. Not sinless perfection
2. **Rather, perfection (maturing) of endurance and perseverance to the glory of God**

II. Key 2, a believing heart

A. Godly belief

- a. A strong, sound faith based on the experience and knowledge of God, not emotions or feelings, or law
- b. Love without law is emotionalism
- c. Law without love is legalism
- d. **The Knowledge of God's word applied in our lives through trials produces Godly wisdom**
- e. Trials should and must drive us to seek God's wisdom

1. Solomon, **Proverbs 3:5-7 (NKJV)** - ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and **lean not on your own understanding**; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. ⁷ Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.

2. **Job 28:12-28 (NKJV)** -- ¹² "But where can wisdom be found? And where *is* the place of understanding? ¹³ Man does not know its value, nor is it found in the land of the living. ¹⁴ The deep says, '*It is not in me*'; And the sea says, '*It is not with me.*' ¹⁵ It cannot be purchased for gold, Nor can silver be weighed *for* its price. ¹⁶ It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, In precious onyx or sapphire. ¹⁷ Neither gold nor crystal can equal it, Nor can it be exchanged for jewelry of fine gold. ¹⁸ No mention shall be made of coral or quartz, For the price of wisdom *is* above rubies.

¹⁹ The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it, nor can it be valued in pure gold. ²⁰ "From where then does wisdom come? And where *is* the place of understanding? ²¹ It is hidden from the eyes of all

living, and concealed from the birds of the air. ²² Destruction and Death say, 'We have heard a report about it with our ears.' ²³ God understands its way, And He knows its place. ²⁴ For He looks to the ends of the earth, *And* sees under the whole heavens, ²⁵ To establish a weight for the wind, And apportion the waters by measure. ²⁶ When He made a law for the rain, And a path for the thunderbolt, ²⁷ Then He saw *wisdom* and declared it; He prepared it, indeed, He searched it out.

²⁸ And to man He said, **'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.'** "

3. Listen to this promise from the Lord found in Psalm 32:8 (NKJV) -- **⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.**

f. **Trials cause us to enhance our prayer life.** vs5 -- James 1:5 (NKJV) -- ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, **let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.**

1. Ask, but note what we are to ask for: WISDOM
2. God will give without hoarding, without reproach
3. "Let him ask", This is imperative, not just good advice but a command, quickest way out of a trial is to learn quickly,

Proverbs 2:1-12 (NKJV) -- ¹ My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you,

² So that you incline your ear to wisdom, *And* apply your heart to understanding;

³ Yes, if you cry out for discernment, *And* lift up your voice for understanding,

⁴ If you seek her as silver, *And* search for her as *for* hidden treasures;

⁵ **Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, *And* find the knowledge of God.**

⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom; **From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding;**

⁷ **He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; *He is* a shield to those who walk uprightly;**

⁸ **He guards the paths of justice, *And* preserves the way of His saints.**

⁹ Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity *and* every good path.

¹⁰ When wisdom enters your heart, *And* knowledge is pleasant to your soul,

¹¹ **Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you,**

¹² To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things,

4. **“In faith without doubt”, ask in faith of God’s character, promises, purpose, in accordance with His Word which never returns unto Him void.**

III. 3rd Key, **a humble Spirit**

A. James addresses the economically challenged, the most common denominator among his audience (retired pastor J.P.

Skinner once said, “**I started with nothing, and after 50 years of ministry I still have most of it left.**”)

- a. Don't let your life be ruled by your poverty or your circumstances
 - b. Instead, “Glory”, rejoice, boast, not about your circumstances, **but rather**
 - c. **Brag about Jesus**. Don't complain about your situation but remember your position: **seated in the heavenly places In Christ, with all things put under your feet because you are In Him and He is in you.**
- B. Materially poor, are rich in blessings, according to the Word of God and **they have the right to come to God in any/every trial**. Material rich have the same blessings in trials - **James 1:9-10 (NKJV) --** ⁹ Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, ¹⁰ but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away.
- C. God is the great equalizer, making all who come to Him in faith...**One**. He breaks down the middle wall of partition ... **Ephesians 2:14 (NKJV) –** ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,
- D. Finally, God's command to us in **Micah 6:8 (NKJV) --** ⁸ He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; And what does the LORD require of you But **to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?**

So in conclusion and in summary, these are 3 keys to understanding/going through trials which I have discovered through God's Word and through personal experience, and understanding that Jesus is the Master Key which gives us access and authority to use all the other keys as He unlocks the Key cabinet. He is the Word and the Word is the Key and the Keys! So the keys to enduring Trials are:

Key #1, a submissive will

Key #2, a believing heart

Key #3, a humble Spirit