

Maturity Matters,  
Grow Up!  
**Profiting From Our Problems**

**I. Introduction**

- A. James 1:1-2 (NAS) <sup>1</sup>James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings. <sup>2</sup>Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials.

**II. Facts About Problems**

- A. Problems are inevitable.

1. James 1:2 (NAS) Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials.
2. John 16:33b (NAS) "In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."
3. I Peter 4:12 (NAS) Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you.

- B. Problems are not planned.

1. James 1:2 (NAS) Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials.

- C. Problems are diverse.

- D. Problems have a purpose.

**III. The Purpose of Problems**

- A. They test and purify our faith

- B. They produce endurance in us

1. James 1:2-3 (NAS) <sup>2</sup>Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, <sup>3</sup>knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.
2. "Endurance" (hupomone) - - "The ability to stay under pressure"

- C. They make us more like Jesus

1. James 1:4 (NAS) And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.
2. Hebrews 5:8 (NAS) Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

#### IV. How to Profit From Our Problems

##### A. Rejoice

1. James 1:2 (NAS) *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials.*
2. I Thessalonians 5:18 (NAS) *In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*
3. Romans 8:28 (NAS) *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*
4. The difference is our attitude!
  - a. "Consider" (hegomai) - - "To evaluate, to make up your mind, to take a deliberate look at"
5. Psalm 34:1b (NAS) *God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

##### B. Pray

1. James 1:5 (NAS) *But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*
2. "Wisdom" - - "Seeing life from God's point of view"

##### C. Trust God to know what's best for my life

1. James 1:6a (NAS) *But he must ask in faith without any doubting.*
2. James 1:12 (NAS) *Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*
3. I Peter 5:7 (NAS) *Casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.*

#### V. Conclusion