

A Sometimes-Painful Calling



Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:2-4,12 (NIV)

..... Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him



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Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.



Matthew 5:10 (NIV)

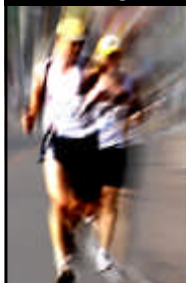
In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NIV)

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These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today.... Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart,

Deuteronomy 8:1-4 (NIV)

whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna ... to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

James 1:4-5 (NIV)

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