

# 38: WHY TRIALS STRENGTHEN A MAN'S FAITH (NOT BREAK IT)

By John Leavy

In Week 8: Persevering Faith

3 Min read



***“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.” — James 1:2-3***

It’s hard to “count it all joy” when the weather shifts suddenly, the elevation rises, or the trail turns muddy and hard to follow. Each step takes more effort. These aren’t the conditions a man would choose, but they reveal him. James 1:2–3 says, “Count it all joy... when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.”

No man welcomes hardship. No one naturally calls a trial “joy.” The passage doesn’t avoid difficulty; it reframes its purpose. Trials aren’t random obstacles. They shape us.

Obstacles on the trail show a hiker’s strength and condition. God uses trials to reveal a man’s weaknesses, reactions, and untested faith. This exposure is the point—the trial is how God strengthens what is weak.

Many men misunderstand what's happening. They assume something is wrong when things get hard, but something deeper is being built. The trail exposes and then strengthens weakness. Endurance develops under pressure that a man would rather avoid.

## **APPLICATION**

Endurance doesn't come easy. Trials don't strengthen a man unless he walks through them the right way. James 1:2-3 points to a process—testing produces steadfastness. That means what you do in the middle of the trial matters.

What's often left unsaid is how easy it is to waste a trial. A man can become bitter instead of better. He can isolate instead of engage. He can look for escape instead of growth. He can spend more energy resisting the trial than learning from it.

Endurance is formed when a man stays present in the difficulty and chooses trust over reaction. That requires perspective. Instead of asking, "How do I get out of this?" he begins to ask, "What is this producing in me?" That shift changes everything. It slows him down enough to learn, to adjust, and to deepen his dependence on God.

This is where brotherhood matters. Trials tend to pull a man inward, but the right men keep him from closing off. They speak the truth when his thinking starts to narrow. They remind him this stretch of the trail isn't permanent—but it is doing something.

Endurance grows when a man stays engaged, stays connected, and keeps walking.

## **LIVE IT OUT**

Identify one current trial and resist the urge to escape it. Stay present. Talk it through with another man. Choose trust over reaction in one specific moment this week. Endurance is built here. Don't waste the trial. Keep moving forward with steady, anchored faith.

### ***PRAY THIS...***

***"Lord, help me to stay present when you send trials my way. Help me to resist exiting the trail before Your work is finished."***

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Practice builds the man.***

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