

HOLY HELPS ARTICLE

TRIALS AND TESTINGS

Boaters know that trials and testings are part of the experience of venturing out upon the water in a floating tub. Sometimes we boaters feel like David did when he said, *“All Your waves and billows have gone over me.”* (Psalm 42:7) But we also know that without the winds, which cause waves and billows, we sail-boaters would make no progress.

The trials of life are the winds that blow upon the sails of our souls, to shape us, not to shipwreck us; to drive us closer to Himself, not to drown us; to direct us, not to destroy us. Although we cannot change the direction of the wind, we can adjust our sails! This is what Peter is telling us in James 1:2-4 which I have provided below from three different translations:

*“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh **patience**. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”* (kjv)

*“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces **endurance**. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”* (nasb)

*“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.”* (niv)

The words translated “*patience*”, “*endurance*” and “*perseverance*”, in the above translations, are all true translations of the original Greek which is “*hupomonē*” and means: “fortitude, patience, perseverance, endurance, constancy.”

Trials, testings and temptations are intended to work, produce and develop within us those spiritual qualities. So instead of complaining and reacting negatively when they come into our lives, we are to “*count it all joy*”; “*consider it pure joy*.” My friend, Warren W. Wiersbe, wrote a book entitled, “Bumps Are What You Climb On.”

Trials can be stepping stones, not stumbling stones. There are times when I have thought that I have had a double portion of both bumps and waves in my lifetime. However, the way along which the Lord has led me, although strewn with boulders and billows, is the path of His planning, and I am still climbing! And sailing!

JdonJ