



FACING TRIALS WITH BALANCE

CRAIG REES

BIG IDEA:

For this to be 'our finest hour', we must face trials with patient faith.

KEY SCRIPTURE:

James 1:2-4

John 11:28; 16:33

Romans 8:28; 10:17

1 John 4:4

1. What happens to you in a season of instability?
2. Trials are certainly not enjoyable. In James 1:2 we are commanded to be joyful even in the midst of trials. Why?
3. The word trial can also be translated as *temptation*. The English word temptation is Latin. Originally the word meant trials *whether good or bad*, but the evil sense of the word has come to monopolize the way the word is used in English. The Greek word in verse 2 is clearly meant to be a trial—it's a good thing. The word appears again in verse 12, but here the *evil* sense is meant—it's a temptation.

How would you define trials? How would you define temptation?
4. Can you think of ways in which the trials we experience become temptations? What could facilitate that transition?
5. What is the purpose of trials? What are the two possible reactions to trials?
6. Trials 'surround us', so the question is not, "How do we get around this?" but, "How can we get through this?" What are some practical ways you can have joy amid a trial?
7. Faith is not produced by trials but tested by trials. Read Romans 10:17. What does produce faith? What does this insight suggest we must do to make a testing season our finest hour?
8. God desires to lead us to maturity. Name one trial you are facing. In light of the command 'consider', name one way you believe God wants you to grow in the midst of your trial.