

UNSHAKABLE: MAKING THE MOST OF HARD TIMES

Part 1 – The Real World

James 1:1-4

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INTRODUCTION

*John 16:33 I've told you all this so that trusting Me, you will be **UNSHAKABLE** and assured, deeply at peace. In this godless world you will continue to experience difficulties. But take heart! I've conquered the world. (MSG)*

James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (NIV)

1. THERE ARE THREE FACTS ABOUT OUR PROBLEMS THAT WE NEED TO KNOW.

Fact #1 - Problems are **inevitable**. (James 1:2)

Fact #2 - Problems are **unpredictable**. (James 1:2)

The word "encounter" in Greek is "peripipto". It literally means an **ambush**.

Fact #3 - Problems come in many **shapes and sizes**. (James 1:2)

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

2. EVERY PROBLEM WE FACE HAS A POSITIVE **PURPOSE** FOR OUR LIFE.

A. Problems are designed to develop **endurance**. (James 1:3)

James 1:3 ...knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

C. Problems are designed to develop our **character**. (James 1:4)

1. *James 1:4 And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be **perfect** and complete, lacking in nothing.*

2. For a person to become spiritually mature two things must happen:
 - a. We have to receive God's Word.
 - b. We have to apply God's Word.
- D. Problems are designed to deepen our faith.
 1. *Job 23:10 He has tested me through the refining fire and I have come out as pure gold.*
 2. Every trial is a test made of up two questions:
 - a. Do you trust Me?
 - b. How much?
 3. *Romans 1:17 The righteous shall live by faith.*
3. THERE IS A WAY TO RESPOND TO HARD TIMES THAT WILL GIVE US A MAXIMUM BENEFIT.

- A. Decide to make the most of this moment. (James 1:2)

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

1. The word "Consider" means to determine something is true no matter what your feelings may say to the contrary. It is an internal attitude of the heart.
2. *Psalm 34:1 I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

- B. Accept the peace and confidence God offers us during the trial. (James 1:2)

The word "Joy" means the confident assurance in the middle of trouble that says everything is OK because of Christ.

- C. Learn how to trust God to see you through. (James 1:4)

James 1:4 And let endurance have its perfect result...