

Bucket Talk – The view from 10,000 feet

Bible Verses

James 1:2-4 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.

Romans 5:3-4 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Romans 12: 12 *Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer*

A trouble free life.....NOT!

Through His the prophets, His Word (the Bible), and through His Son Jesus Christ, God has made us many promises. One promise that He has never made though is the promise of a pain free and trouble free life. On the contrary, Jesus said “you will have suffering in this world”. But throughout scripture, we are told that our God is a loving and merciful God who will continue to shape us, mold us and refine us into the person that He created us to be. Precious metals are refined by fire. Diamonds are created when coal is put under intense pressure. Jesus’ brother James encourages us to consider our troubles a “great joy” that will produce perseverance in our faith. The Apostle Paul tells us to “rejoice” in our troubles because through them we will develop character and hope. He tells us to be “patient” with our troubles...they will pass. In our lives, we have the opportunity to make a choice in how we view our own struggles and trials. We can let them define us, or we can let them refine us. We can look at them from ground level or we can look at them from our Heavenly Fathers view...from 10,000 feet. Yes, Jesus DID say that in this world we would have suffering, but He finished that statement by saying “Be courageous! I have conquered the world”. What amazing peace and comfort that gives. We are abundantly blessed...we just sometimes forget when our view remains at ground level.

From the book “Captured by Grace” by Dr. David Jeremiah

Oh yea...We are abundantly blessed!

- If you own just one Bible, you are abundantly blessed. Most people in the world do not.
- If you awoke this morning more healthy than ill, you are more blessed than over one million people who will not survive the week.
- If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people around the world.
- If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.
- If you prayed yesterday and today, you are in the minority because you believe in God’s willingness to hear and answer prayer.
- If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, you live with the daily assurance that you will have eternal life and that your Savior has gone ahead to prepare for you a mansion in glory. **Sadly, many millions of people around the world believe that this life is all that there is.**