

## *Is the Journey Becoming Too Difficult?*

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### ***Trials and Temptations***

<sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, <sup>[a]</sup> whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1;2-4, NIV

<sup>2</sup> Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, <sup>3</sup> for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. <sup>4</sup> So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete. **Living Bible (TLB)**



A smooth road does not produce **character**! An easy journey does not promote **unfailing integrity**. The word “difficulty” comes to mind as an agent needed to bring these things into full play. **Character and unfailing integrity** rise out of the valleys where tremendous pressure is common. God keeps these pressures from crushing us. All things work together for good to them that love the Lord. **We are assured and know that <sup>[i]</sup>God being a partner in their labor] all things work together and are [fitting into a plan] for good to and for those who love God and are called according to [His] design and purpose.**(Romans 8:28). The good produced by these pressures is perseverance and character. Paul realized this in his letter to the Romans.

*Moreover [let us also be full of joy now!] let us exult and triumph in our troubles and rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that pressure and affliction and hardship produce patient and unswerving endurance.*

*And endurance (fortitude) develops maturity of <sup>[c]</sup>character (approved faith and <sup>[d]</sup>tried integrity). And character [of this sort] produces [the habit of] <sup>[e]</sup>joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation.*

*Such hope never disappoints or deludes or shames us, for God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us.*(Romans 5:3-5)