

Into Each Life Some Rain Must Fall

Devotional for Sept. 25/20

By Major Brian Coles

“Into Each Life Some Rain Must Fall” is a 1944 song performed as a duet by The Ink Spots, featuring Bill Kenny, and Ella Fitzgerald.

And it’s a truism, isn’t it? Into every life a little rain must fall. In other words, we all will face trials in life.

However, some of you may be thinking, “I wouldn’t mind a sprinkle every now and then, but I feel like I’m under a deluge!”

You may resent the rain that falls, the trials that come, but they do have a purpose. God can use the trials you face to grow your character.

While you’re going through those trials, here are 3 responses you can make which can help you grow your character.

1st, you can rejoice in your trials.

James writes in the first part of his letter, “Consider it pure joy... whenever you face trials of many kinds.”

Don’t misunderstand what James is saying. He not asking us to fake it. God would never ask you to deny reality.

He doesn’t expect you to walk around with a smile on your face all the time and say, “Everything’s wonderful”

when you lose your spouse or your child is an alcoholic, or you’re in constant pain.

Those aren’t good things. You do not rejoice **for** those things, but you can rejoice **in** those things.

How can we rejoice **in** those things? We can rejoice in those things because we know God has a purpose for our trials.

According to James, God’s purpose for trials is to test our faith, develop our perseverance, and mature our character.

If you can only experience joy when you don't have trials in life, you will never be joyful.

Therefore, you must learn how to rejoice in the trials of life, because you'll always have trials. They are an inevitable part of life.

Notice James says, "Consider it pure joy." To 'consider' means to deliberately make up your mind. You can control how you will respond to the trials of life.

It's your choice to rejoice, and you can rejoice because God has a purpose for the trials of life – to test your faith, develop your perseverance, and mature your character.

Trials in life are inevitable. You cannot stop trials from coming, but you can choose how to respond to them.

What then, is the 2nd response we can make to the trials of life?

2nd, you can request help from God.

James goes on to write, "If any of you lacks wisdom [in dealing with life's trials], he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."

Ask God for wisdom so that you can learn everything you need to learn as you're going through your trials.

What then, is the 3rd response we can make to the trials of life?

3rd, you can relax.

By relax I mean you can trust God to know what's best, and cooperate with him by saying, "God I'm not going to doubt you here.

I don't know why this is happening, but I know you've allowed it and I don't want to short-circuit what you're doing in my life."

James says that when you pray for wisdom [in dealing with life's trials] you "must believe and not doubt."

Don't doubt that God is working in your life. Don't think he has abandoned you. He hasn't - and he never will.

That was Wallace Johnson's experience. Wallace Johnson was a follower of Jesus.

When he was 40 years old, his boss fired him from his sawmill job. It came as a devastating shock. This happened during the Great Depression in the 1930's.

He and his family needed the income from his job to survive. Wallace thought his world caved in on him.

His worried wife asked him, "What are we going to do?" He answered saying, "I'm going to mortgage our home and go into the building business."

His first venture was the construction of two small buildings he later named the Holiday Inn. Within 5 years, Wallace Johnson was a multimillionaire.

In an interview he said, "If I could find the man who fired me, I would sincerely thank him for what he did.

At the time it happened, I didn't understand why I was fired. Later I saw it was God's unerring and wondrous plan to get me into the ways of his choosing."

We will all face trials in life. You can rejoice in your trials, knowing God has a purpose for your life. You can also request help from God, asking him for wisdom. And you can relax in his presence, trusting he knows what's best.