

***Life Principle Day Twenty-Nine:***

*We learn more in our valley experiences than on our mountaintops.*

**Today's Reading**

**James 1:1-18**



None of us yearns for the valley experiences of life. All of us prefer the mountaintop celebrations. I suppose that is what makes James 1:2 so difficult to swallow: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds..." The truth is that the uncomfortable experience of trials can happen "whenever" without warning. They can take on different forms and manifest themselves in any of the many hues of the rainbow. But, in spite of our untimely appearance and our inability to prepare for the exact type that is just around the corner, each one is to be greeted with pure, unadulterated, 100% joy.

Does that joy come naturally for you? I am guessing not. It is a learned response. (One that I am still learning, in case you are wondering.) You see, in understand-

ing the reason for the trials you find reason for joy. The truth is that God is very much at work in the tests of our life. Those trials have a way of developing perseverance in you. Perseverance in the face of trials ultimately leads you to maturity...God's final goal for your life. He is developing you into a fully devoted follower of Jesus. Sometimes, He accelerates that process by turning up the heat! When you understand that God is taking you down a sometimes twisting and difficult path to lead you to a desirable place, you do find reason for joy.

The truth of today's life principle is clear. We do learn more in our valley experiences than on our mountaintops. With your hand in God's and joy in your heart, embrace the challenges that come your way. God is at work. Even the valley paths lead to places of refinement and ultimate blessing.