

# COMPLETE IN CHRIST

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Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, 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. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. James 1:2-5 NIV

In these turbulent times, many people's faiths (Christians included) have been put to a rigorous test, as we experience loss in many different forms that has left us devastated, uncertain, and, at times, left crying out to God that He would put a quick end to the current global crisis that has hit closer and closer to home.

In many different fora, I have stated time and time again that the joy that we have when we go through the challenges and difficulties we face, we have none other than our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ to lead us, guide us and see us through even in our most difficult battles. In Him we live and breathe and have the faith that He will see us through no matter what lies before us. We ought to be thankful for how God ministers to us through His everlasting Word, so that whether we celebrate joys and victories on one hand, as well as trials and difficulties on the other, the Lord completes us in those areas where we are lacking. We only have to allow

the Lord to minister to us through His Word. We, therefore, need to grow deeper and deeper in our relationship with the Lord through His Word.

The scripture quoted above from James 1:2-5 is a perfect reminder about what God gives us whenever we face trials. Notice that James reminds us that trials are a certainty in life. No matter what our stature in life, age or background, we all need to face the reality of trials in life. James did not say IF we face trials, rather, he exhorts the believers to be joyful **WHENEVER** we face trials. And there is no better time to showcase God's power than in our current pandemic as we realize how powerless and helpless we are without the Lord.

Let us heed this exhortation from the Lord to be joyful in our afflictions because the trials and the testings we experience produce perseverance in the Lord, certainly something we cannot achieve in and of our own. While many may wilt and wither under the extreme pressure that inevitably comes, God gives us the much-needed strength not just to weather the storms but to emerge victorious in our battles. Indeed, what the Don Moen song lyrics say is true that when our strength and our hearts may fail, "God is the strength of our hearts!"

As we persevere in our faith in the Lord, He completes the Christian experience in us so that through

our battles, we may learn to put our full trust in the Lord to see us through. For those who have yet to put their faith in Jesus Christ, going through the trials in and around this pandemic could be rather disastrous as you are left to face your battles on your own, without much hope as your strength and heart may falter.

Therefore, if there is anything lacking in your life right now, something you sorely need or want in the midst of the Covid-19 Crisis, allow the Lord to complete you and grant you wisdom, power and strength for He alone can see you through. Be complete in Christ! ✝

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