



Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

March 2016

Sometimes life can seem unbearable. Not only are there uncertain times in our personal lives, but also in our nation. What are we to do during these times of uncertainty? We have to discern what God may be up to in our lives. God may be moving us forward in spiritual growth.

In very trying circumstances, notice what the brother of Jesus writes to these genuine born again Christians in **James 1:1-4** – “*James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad:*”

### **Greetings.**

Now, in the Greek, this word “**greetings**” literally means “**to rejoice.**”

*Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”*

Notice again verse two, “***Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials ...***”

You see trials are to be expected. James does not say “**if**” but “**when**” you fall into various trials. It’s going to happen. We need to expect it and be ready for it.

Trials are also various. The word **various** in **verse 2** means diverse or many-colored. This means trials may come from any direction in our lives and they can affect any part of our lives. Trials can bother us short-term or literally alter the rest of our lives. Trials are like an uninvited guest who just pops in and stays too long.

The word **trial** here can mean life’s testings. We find ourselves comfortable and floating in our Christian lives and a sort of casual Christianity sets in. Testings wake us up and cause us to pay attention and take action. Remember, God is Omniscient; He knows everything. So, when these testings come our way it is not for God to see what we will do, but it is for us to see where we are spiritually and what we will do. ***God is moving us to grow spiritually.***

So, how do we deal with the pressures of life during trying times? We must keep our focus on God and growing “**through**” our times of struggles. And when we make it through to the other side we will be more like Jesus Christ in conversation, conduct, and character, and yes, we must remember to give thanks to Him in all things. Remember those who have gone on before us have experienced the same things.

My friend, Jesus is coming soon! Think for a moment, what is the wisest thing to be doing in these last days? We need to channel all that we are, and all that we have, to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, as far and as quickly as possible. Help me do this! This is what we are doing together and will continue to do. This is more important than compounded interest in an uncertain world. The Apostle Paul said, *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”*

**2 Corinthians 8:9**

We know God is in absolute control, so let's concentrate on the main thing, winning souls to Jesus Christ, and making sure through discipleship that every individual knows who they are in Christ.

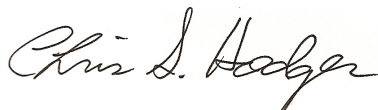
At Abiding Above Ministries, spiritual growth is our greatest motivator. We see people saved, and then encouraged and instructed in how to keep on going all out for the Lord.

This is why we are on radio stations and the Internet with ***Abiding Above with Chris Hodges***. It gets the gospel message out, and it connects people to basic Bible studies for growing in the Lord.

It is my prayer that God will bless you this year in every way. My friend, whatever God has been leading you to do for many years now, don't hesitate, simply do it. It could be any number of things. If it comes to your mind often, it must be of the Lord. It might be to simply read your Bible, start having your quiet time again, or learn how to share your faith. It can be so many things, just do it and you will be so blessed! Step out of your comfort zone in 2016, and see what God will do!

I love you and daily thank God for you. Be wise, in these last days. What are you doing with all that you have? Soon, and very soon, we are going to see Jesus! Will He find us faithful? Like young Samuel, simply say yes to the still small voice of God.

Abiding above,



President  
Abiding Above Ministries  
Colossians 3:1-3

**PS: Check us out on Facebook at *Abiding Above Ministries***

