

Intro.

- A. *TRUTHS WE CAN COUNT ON* → stability, confidence, faith/trust, hope
1. Under ordinary circumstances, *death* = one of the most intimidating, unsettling, disconcerting, unnerving, hopeless trials that you and I ever face. (Ranks with divorce, debilitating illness, other extreme disasters.
  2. How does one survive???
    - a. By survive, we  $\geq$  talking about mere existence.
    - b. We mean, to overcome the challenge victorious, happy
- B.
- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.

Discuss.**II. TRIUMPH Over Death --- VICTORY. Jas. 1:2-5 (-12)**

- A. *Count...* = a joyful attitude. Outlook determines outcome; attitude determines action.
1. God says, *Expect trials* ---It when, not if...
  2. Instead of *Why me, why now*, should be thinking, Why not me. **Jn. 16:33**
  3. *You fall  $\geq$  suggest accident, but = to encounter, come across* (not manufactured by own doing)
  4. *Count* = financial term = evaluate (used often in **Phil. 3**)
- B. *Know* = an understanding mind, **Jas. 1:3** \*What do Christians know that makes it easier to face trials ?
1. Faith = going to be tested. (Abraham faith tested **Gn. 22:2ff**, & he grew stronger, **Heb. 11:8, 17**)
  2. Know that testing works *for us, not against us*.
  3. **2 Cor. 4:17**
- C. Be confident—trials used correctly will help us grow. **Rom. 5:3-4 & Isa. 40:31**
- D. *Let* = a surrendered will, **Jas. 1:4, 9-12**
1. God's goal for us = *maturity*, & trials & tests push that along.
  2. The maturing process is often accelerated gty. in dealing with looming challenges. (financial, etc.)
- E. *Ask* = a believing heart, **Jas. 1:5-8**
1. When facing grave difficulties, need to pray=→ for wisdom. (proper applica. of knowledge)
  2. Ask of God, *nothing doubting – in faith!*
- E. **Vs. 12** *blessed = man that endureth temptation – CROWN*
- F. **2 Cor. 4:16-5:1, 6-10**      **Phil. 1:21 & 3:13-14**      **2 Tim. 4:6-8**

**III. Victory Over --- DEATH! 1 Cor. 15**

A

Concl.

A

1.

2.

a.

b.

c.

B.

1.

2.

3.