

ROUGH TO TOUGH

SCRIPTURE:

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 (James 1:2-4).

MATERIALS LIST:

- (1) piece of sandpaper
- (1) rough piece of wood

MAIN MESSAGE:

Many times it is hard to see the good in something when times of trial occur. While we may not understand completely why we are going through it, we need to remember that God always gives us advantages to our disadvantages. We need to count it all as joy because God will make good on His promises to us!

SONG: "In Moments Like These"

LESSON:

Take a piece of sandpaper then look at it and feel it. It's grainy, rough, gritty, and not pleasant. There just aren't many things that are appealing about it. Logically speaking, if a person didn't know what sandpaper was, they would think it was useless for anything.

Take that same useless piece of sandpaper and a rough piece of wood. As you start rubbing the sandpaper on the wood you will notice a difference in the feel of both the sandpaper and the wood. Keep rubbing the sandpaper and what happens? Eventually, both the sandpaper and wood will be smooth! The sandpaper in all it's roughness actually served a purpose. Something good came from it! By the time the sandpaper has run it's course, the wood is as smooth as could be.

With all this in mind, let's try to apply this to our lives in times of trials or distress. Typically, when troubles arise, like the sandpaper, we think that they are good for nothing. It is human nature to look at times like this and not understand why we are going through it or why we should give God praise for allowing us to have a difficult time with something. It doesn't make it right but it is the way most people react to times of trial. God does allow some things to happen to us that we aren't happy with or we don't like, but if we are patient and look really hard, by the time the distresses we face are over, we will see the good that God has allowed to come from it. If we keep the faith and endure, we will find that our lives, like the wood, came out better on the other side of the rough storm. We will be more spiritually mature and more spiritually tough.

PRAYER: When times of trouble arise and we can't see the good in things help us to understand that You are there with us and that You will allow good to come from something we perceive as bad.