



Trusting God in the Little Trials

By Tony Guerrero

How often are you confronted with little trials in your ministry? The P.A. is crackling. The drummer is late. The guitarist is out of strings. The featured vocalist has a cold. It's just not your Sunday!

Little trials can seem so big in the moment. Usually, the little situations that come up in ministry are pretty insignificant, but they often become blown out of proportion in our minds because of the immediate needs we face. Often we find ourselves in that scary place where we come to God, either alone or as a team, and start praying that he would miraculously fix the situation. You know the prayer: "Father, please help [insert name here] get here in time...."

Chapter one of the book of James tells us to be joyful in times of trial. This tends to go against our nature. For most of us, trials usually trigger panic or worry. James also tells us that trials, no matter how small or large, are important for building our character. As we develop in our faith, godly character begins to temper the way we deal with bad situations. But trials are also an opportunity for us to allow God to show himself to us.

It is appropriate for us to come to God in our times of need. In fact, it is foolish not to. But often we come to him in fear without also coming to him in confidence. We grovel without exercising much faith. James 1:6-8 teaches us that, as we come to God in fear, we must also come to him in faith and confidence that he will work.

What if, in the heat of those little trials, we actually verbally thanked God for the situation? Imagine if our prayers sounded more like this: "Father, thank you for this opportunity to rely on you!" or "God, without my guitarist here, I can't do what I had planned, but I believe you're going to exceed my expectations today!"

Begin to look for "trust opportunities" disguised as trials. Welcome the next trial just as an exercise in trusting God. It will make you a better, more godly, and less-stressed leader!

JAMES 1:2-8

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.