



If Life Was Fair

I've given many sermons over the years on verses like James 1:2-3, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." However, speaking on verses like this proves to be much easier than living them out. Yes, I understand there is a significant benefit offered, but during trying times, that is most often far from my mind.

I identify more with King David when he wrote (Psalm 73:2-4), "I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills." During difficult times, I tend to look at people around me and ask, "Why me?" Or I may say, "This isn't fair." Candidly, joy is the last thing on my mind.

A wise person once told me, "Life isn't fair. The sooner you learn that lesson, the better life will be." I used that line many times over the years; although, I modified it slightly by adding the words, "If life was fair, I'd own a Lexus."

Life may not be fair, and my first thought may not be to count it all joy during difficult times, yet, I fully appreciate David's words at the end of Psalm 73, "But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge."

Perhaps one day I will learn to be joyful when going through hardships, knowing that God is using those times to teach and mold me. In the meantime, I will simply take joy in the fact that during challenging times God is with me, and that is extremely comforting.