

“Conquering Troubles Before THEY Conquer YOU!”

The storms of life “prune” us of the *dead wood* in our lives. Without the pruning, we could not and would not be healthy and fruitful. Why then are we so fearful of storms?

Jesus said that our Heavenly Father would prune us – **John 15:1-2**.

Last Sunday, I shared with you four of the *Seven Threats to Oneness and Intimacy*. We have now come to threat #5.

Threat #5 - \_\_\_\_\_.

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of man 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. – James 1:22-4, NIV*

Let me point out several important truths from this Bible text:

1. “Consider it pure joy...” does not mean you \_\_\_\_\_ it is joyful...at least at first.

- **Consider** is an action of our **mind** as well as our **will** to CHOOSE IN FAITH.
- It is an active application of what the Apostle Paul commanded in **2 Corinthians 10:5** when he said, “Take every thought captive...”

2. Trials test our \_\_\_\_\_.

- God tested Abraham:
  - **Genesis 22:1**
  - **Hebrews 11:17-19**
- God tested His people Israel  
– **Psalm 66:10**.

3. Testing our faith “develops

\_\_\_\_\_.

- **Sanctified stick-to-itiveness!**
- Hard lessons to learn.
- Even harder lessons to live without!