

Tap Out Tribulations

James 1:2-3

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance."

In order for Anointed Fighters to become the champions God intended them to be, they must face down some tough fighters inside the cage of life. Fighters by the names of Distractions, Diversions, Disappointments, Trials, Temptations and Traumas. However, like a good manager, God will not match His fighters against anyone who could destroy His prized fighters.

Every time you step inside the cage and close the door, you fight against the world, the flesh and the devil. Each is poised to knock you out, tap you out or choke you out the moment you drop your guard. However, the Anointed Fighter training manual (Bible) tells us that the fighters we face are actually a means of achieving our supreme championship in Christ Jesus:

"Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us" (Romans 5:3-5).

Our training partner James offers similar encouragement:

"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" (James 1:2-4).

Maybe you thought your goal as an Anointed Fighter was to escape the "arm bar of tribulations". Nevertheless, God's goal for you is maturity in Christ, becoming the fighter He designed you to be. Tribulation just happens to be one of the primary stepping-stones on the pathway. That is why Paul says we rejoice, meaning to express heightened joy, in our fight against tribulations. Why? Because persevering during the fight against tribulations is the doorway to proven character, which is God's goal for us. Our championship lies in proven character, not in favorable circumstances or in the manipulation of others. Nothing can keep God's anointed from being what He wants them to be. Trials and tribulations are the two best fighters suited for bringing about His championship for your life.

Remember, it is called a fight for a reason. However, we fight *from* victory, not *for* victory. Keep Fighting!

Prayer: Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ, please help me during the good fight. May your perfect will be done. Amen