**Trying times to triumphant times**

**Sermon Notes: Pastor George F. Nicholas**

John 16:22-24 (NKJV) 22 Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.

23 “And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. 24 Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

1. **Time moves**
* Time continues to move on
* Thanksgiving has pass and Advent it upon us
* The season of Advent, which comes comes from the Latin word adventus meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve
* Advent is the beginning of the church year for Christians.
* Hope, why should I lose hope

Romans 15:13 (NKJV)13Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit

* Trials are part of the journey

James 1:2-4 (NKJV)2My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3knowing that the testing of your faith produces [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+1%253A2+-4&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30270a)]patience. 4But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+1%253A2+-4&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30271b)]perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

* Now is our season to try to take our faith to the next level
* These times are an opportunity for the people of God to be that who we have claimed we are
1. **Jesus**
* In the 16th chapter of John
* Jesus knew it would be a trying time for his followers
* unless we endure the suffering we will not enjoy the reward

John 16:6-7 (NKJV)6But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you

* Jesus is referring to his post resurrection visitation
* one thing this virus can not take away is our relationship with Jesus
* But we must recognize that God is doing something new
* Trials are part of the human journey
* Not the actions of angry vengeful God
* But the part of God’s divine plan to redeem humanity
* God loves you

John 16:26-27 (NKJV)26In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; 27for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God

* We have the victory because we know have access to the Father
* So, lets prepare our hearts to walk in the love of God