

# Mark 4:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

## Analysis

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Jesus continues: 'And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.' The phrase 'no root in themselves' (οὐκ ἔχουσιν ῥίζαν ἐν ἑαυτοῖς) indicates lack of internal reality—profession without regeneration, enthusiasm without transformation. They 'endure but for a time' (πρόσκαιροί εἰσιν)—temporary, not permanent. Testing reveals rootlessness: 'affliction or persecution' (θλίψεως ἢ διωγμοῦ) refers to pressure and active opposition 'for the word's sake' (διὰ τὸν λόγον). The result: 'immediately they are offended' (εὐθὺς σκανδαλίζονται)—they stumble, fall away, apostatize.

## Historical Context

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Early Christians faced family rejection, social ostracism, economic loss, imprisonment, and martyrdom. These trials exposed false professors who lacked genuine conversion. Church history records this pattern: persecution purifies church by removing nominal believers while strengthening genuine faith. The promise of persecution (2 Timothy 3:12; John 15:20) means testing is normal Christian experience. Some fall away proves they were never truly born again (1 John 2:19); others persevere, demonstrating genuine faith. Apostasy reveals counterfeit profession, not loss of genuine salvation.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. What trials or opposition have revealed areas where your faith lacks depth?
2. How can you prepare for certain persecution and trials rather than expecting only blessing?
3. What distinguishes those who endure trials from those who fall away?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	οὐκ	ἔχουσιν	ρίζαν	ἐν	ἑαυτοῖς	ἀλλὰ	πρόσκαιροί
And	no	have	root	in	themselves	and	but for a time
G2532	G3756	G2192	G4491	G1722	G1438	G235	G4340
εἰσιν	εἴτα	γενομένης	θλίψεως	ἢ	διωγμοῦ	διὰ	
so endure	afterward	ariseth	when affliction	G2228	or persecution	for	
G1526	G1534	G1096	G2347		G1375	G1223	
τὸν	λόγον	εὐθὺς	σκανδαλίζονται				
G3588	the word's sake	immediately	they are offended				
	G3056	G2112	G4624				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 11:6** (Parallel theme): And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

**Revelation 2:10** (Parallel theme): Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

**Matthew 12:31** (Parallel theme): Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

**Revelation 2:13** (Parallel theme): I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

**Hebrews 10:29** (Parallel theme): Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

**Job 19:28** (Parallel theme): But ye should say, Why persecute we him, seeing the root of the matter is found in me?

**1 John 2:19** (Parallel theme): They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

**Matthew 13:21** (Word): Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

**John 8:31** (Word): Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

**Luke 12:10** (Word): And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.