

# 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

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 ρίζαν ἐν ἑαυτοῖς) indicates lack of internal reality—profession without regeneration, enthusiasm without transformation. They 'endure but for a time' (πρόσκαιροι 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

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 ῥίζαν ἐν ἑαυτοῖς ἀλλὰ πρόσκαιροί

And no have root in themselves and but for a time

G2532 G3756 G2192 G4491 G1722 G1438 G235 G4340

εἰσιν εἰτα γενομένης θλίψεως ἢ διωγμοῦ διὰ

so endure afterward ariseth when affliction or persecution for

G1526 G1534 G1096 G2347 G2228 G1375 G1223

τὸν λόγον εὐθὲως 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.