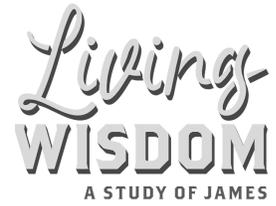


JAMES 1:2-18

September 14-15, 2022



1. Read James 1:2. What thoughts come to your mind after reading these words?

Can you share a time when you were able to walk through a trial with a joyful spirit? What would you say were the reasons it was possible?

James wrote these words to the Jews who were dispersed outside the land of Israel because of persecution for their faith. What might have been some of the trials these people faced?

2. Read James 1:2-4. James teaches us that the testing of our faith produces steadfastness or endurance. Write down the definition of these words. What might be some good synonyms for these words?

According to James, what are the benefits of being steadfast or enduring?

What words does Peter use in 1 Peter 5:10 to help explain James' meaning of becoming 'perfect' complete and lacking in nothing'?

What more can we learn about the importance of being steadfast when we read Ephesians 4:13-14?

3. Read James 1:5. Why do you think James would bring up this subject during his teaching on trials?

How does James describe heavenly wisdom in James 3:17?

4. There is a prerequisite for receiving wisdom from God. Read James 1:5-8 and record this truth.

James compares a believer who prays without faith to a wild wave on the sea. Use your imagination and record your own illustration of the person who cries out to God without believing He will answer.

5. In James 1:9-11, we realize trials will come to everyone. Who are the people groups mentioned in these verses?

Consider James' flower illustration. What is true for both people groups that should cause them to turn to God during suffering? Also read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.

6. In James 1:12, we learn true happiness comes to those who persevere during trials. How has this been true in your life?

The 'crown of life' is best translated the 'crown *is* life,' which probably refers to both a fulfilling life today and an eternal life tomorrow. What do we learn about the person's relationship with God who receives this crown according to 1:12?

7. After studying these verses in James 1:2-12, how would you summarize mature responses to *external* trials?
8. In James 1:13-16, we will look at mature responses when facing *internal* trials. These are the trials related to temptations in our lives. Read James 1:13. What is the wrong way to approach temptations? Why?

Think about some of the temptations that have come your way. What would be the negative results of accusing God of tempting you?

We live in a fallen world full of temptations. How does God help us during temptations according to 1 Corinthians 10:13?

9. Read James 1:14-16. James presents sin as a process in these verses. What is the process?

Who is the responsible party?

10. Read James 1:17-18. In one sentence, summarize the correct view of God's involvement in our lives.

List all that God does for us.

11. After studying these passages in James 1:2-18, how do we face the trials and temptations that come our way? Also read 2 Timothy 2:15 along with 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24.

12. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

RUN TO GOD

James 1:2-18

REMEMBER HE IS PURPOSEFUL

1:2-4

We should not view trials as tribulations to fix, but as testings of our faith to endure.

Joy is an inner confidence in God which brings us hope. Trials are joy when God is our goal.

We can endure suffering when we believe trials are tools in the loving Hands of our Father.

Those who persevere will reap spiritual maturity and the fulfillment that it brings.

REMEMBER HE IS WISE

1:5-8

Trials drive us to a greater dependency on God, as we recognize our own inadequacies.

As with all His riches, God has wisdom in abundance available to those who ask for it.

When we pray, the answer from God depends on our assurance in God.

REMEMBER HE IS JUST

1:9-11

Trials make all Believers equally dependent on God and bring them to the same level.

God is no respecter of persons, favoring any particular group of people over others.

All Christians must evaluate their lives from a heavenly, not an earthly, perspective.

REMEMBER HE IS HOLY

1:12-15

The crown of life is the emblem of spiritual success, given to us by the King of the universe.

A full life today and an eternal life tomorrow is the reward for those who remain steadfast.

If we blame God in hard times, our trials become temptations to sin, and lead us to defeat.

There is nothing in God to which evil can make an appeal. God does not tempt us.

REMEMBER HE IS GOOD

1:16-18

God, whose gracious character is unchanging, is the source of everything that is good.

Anything good in us is because of God's undeserved goodness toward us.

RUNNING TO GOD IN YOUR TRIALS

_____ *for God's good path by studying His map daily.*
Make a list of other paths you have taken and _____ around.
_____ *the baggage that has slowed you down.*
_____ *God to be your compass.*
Make God the _____ of your journey.

Living Wisdom – James 1:2-18
September 14-15, 2022

1 PETER 1:6-7 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

ACTS 14:21-22 When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

ROMANS 5:3-5 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

ROMANS 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 ...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GALATIANS 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

DEUTERONOMY 33:27a "The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms."