

# PERSEVERING THROUGH TRIALS

## Persevering Through Trials

### Key idea:

With Faith in Christ, we can persevere through any trial. Christ is our foundation to have patience, endurance, and steadfastness.

### Key text:

James 1: 2 - 12

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. 9 Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. 10 But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. 11 For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business. 12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. 13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. 16 Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.

## **Key points:**

1. Trials are opportunities for spiritual growth and developing perseverance.
2. True perseverance is patient, steadfast, and enduring.
3. Our response to trials reveals the strength of our faith.
4. Both poverty and wealth can be trials; our attitude should remain consistent regardless of circumstances.
5. Temptation comes from our own desires, not from God.
6. God is the source of all good gifts, including salvation through Jesus Christ.

## **Discussion Questions:**

7. James says to "consider it pure joy" when facing trials (v.2). Why is this challenging, and how can we develop this perspective?
8. How does the testing of our faith produce perseverance? Can you share an example from your own life?
9. Discuss the metaphor of being "like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind" (v.6). How does this relate to doubt in our lives?
10. How can both poverty and wealth be considered trials? Why should our attitude remain the same in both circumstances?
11. What's the difference between a trial and a temptation? How can we distinguish between the two in our lives?
12. How does understanding Jesus' perfect perseverance through trials help us in our own struggles?

## **Practical Applications:**

13. Daily Reflection: Each day this week, identify a small "trial" you faced. How did you respond? Did you consider it joy?
14. Patience Practice: In moments of stress or difficulty, practice pausing and taking a deep breath before responding.
15. Gratitude Journal: Write down three "good and perfect gifts" from God each day, focusing on non-material blessings.
16. Faith Affirmation: When facing a challenge, verbally affirm your trust in God's goodness and control.
17. Accountability: Share with a partner one area where you struggle with doubt. Pray for each other's faith to be strengthened.