

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

### Persevering Through Trials

**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.

## Intro:

### I've been thinking about moments of trials in my life.

- I've certainly gone through difficulties and trials But I couldn't point to something specific.
  - And in that moment I realized. That I have a very good life. I am really blessed
- I have great Christian parents. Food has always been on the table. Ect.
- I started questioning "how I was supposed to talk about this."
  - I again realized another thing, that you are not here to listen to my own experiences (Testimonies are good and Necessary.)
- But you are really here to listen to the word of God.
- There are enough examples of trials in the bible that we can relate to.
  - I may not know what I'm talking about, but the Authors of the Bible know what they are talking about. God Knows what he is talking about.

Then let's analyze what James is trying to tell us about Trials here.

## 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

1. James begins with a very **Bold** claim!
  1. To say " Whenever trials... Consider it pure Joy!"
  2. Is very **Ironical**.
  3. the last thing you think about when you hear the word **trials**?
    1. Is Joy. Instead what comes to mind are things like Difficulty, Suffering, Grief, and Sadness.
2. Why? We need to ask James **why** we should consider it pure joy.

This is how he answers...

## 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.

1. That is the answer,

1. we should consider trials pure Joy... because they produce **Perseverance**.
2. When I think about the word perseverance?
  1. **Endurance**. To endure adversity. Example: Last Summer the Olympics (Sports of endurance; Tennis.)
3. But the perseverance that James seems to be talking about, is **not simply** endurance.
  1. In fact, if you look at the different bible versions.
    1. **Patience** is used. (KJV), Or **Steadfastness**. (ESV)
4. This means that James is describing a Perseverance that is not only endurance...
  1. But also **Patient**. (Still, Calm, Controlled)
  2. And **Steadfast**. (Stable, Constant, Dutiful.)
5. To gain this Perseverance, he says is by the “**Testing of your Faith**.”
  1. “test of your faith” and trials are connected. Meaning that whenever trials happen that is when your **Faith will be Tested**.
6. For a test to be a test there are two outcomes. You can either **Pass** the test or **Fail** the test.
  1. What does it mean to pass the test?
  2. He already explains that...
    1. To pass the test means that when trials come, you will have faith (Faith in God), and that faith will produce **perseverance**.
3. What does it mean to Fail the test?
  1. And this is what he goes into next...

**5** If any of you lacks wisdom, (a person who lacks wisdom fails) 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.

1. That is what it means to fail the test.
  1. Is to be “like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.” James is **metaphorically** representing **Trials** as the **Wind**.
  2. In literal terms to fail, is to be blown and tossed by the Trial (To be shaken and unstable.)
  
2. It also means to be **double-minded**.
  1. Because on one hand, you ask God for wisdom to persevere. But in the other, you don’t believe in God (You don’t have FAITH)

Overall that is what it means to fail. Is to be **unstable and double-minded** because there **is no faith**.

Now in verse 9, James seems to dive into a **more practical discourse** of what it means to **go through trials**.

**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.**

1. Here we are Described **two types** of Believers:
  1. Believers in **Humble circumstances** = Believers in **poor** circumstances
  2. Believers in **Rich circumstances**
  
2. But the **poor and rich** here is not simply talking **about money**.
  1. We can also be Rich in: Health, Family (Family support), Reputation (Society), and Ownership.
  
3. And James says that if you are **poor and become rich** “you ought to take pride.”
  1. That is very **easy**. (Is easy to be happy when you are rich.)
  
4. But, if you are **rich and become poor** “you should also take pride.”

1. That is obviously harder. is hard to consider it pure **joy in the trial**.
  1. He gives another reason (Apart from perseverance) for why you should rejoice. And that is that **all Riches** “**They will pass away like a wild flower.**” (Fade)

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Then in **verse 11**, we see a more **detailed imagery** of this.

**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.**

1. This is very reminiscent of a story in the gospels. Of the young rich men who asked Jesus how to attain eternal life?
  1. Jesus tested his faith. '**Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”** When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. **'Matthew 19:21-24**
2. He was very confident at first, but when the **test came**, the young man **crumbled** because his **faith was in his riches**.
3. The **biggest tragedy** is that he is afraid of **losing** something that will **fade away**.
2. We can also take a look at the story of Abraham. This one is the **opposite**.
  1. When Abraham's **faith was tested**. When he had to sacrifice his promised son Isaac
  2. He was still **faithful**, And **God provided**.
  3. And God told him '**I will surely bless you... through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed**, because you have obeyed me.” **Genesis 22**

**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.

1. Where are the riches of the young man?

1. **Gone** (Faded)
2. Where are the riches of Abraham?
  1. **Still** blessing people to this day, more than ever before.

**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.

1. What we learn here is...
    1. There is a **tendency** to blame God when we are tempted.
    2. But he says that temptation **doesn't come from God**
      1. It comes from us. “**By our own desires.**”
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2. I'm pretty sure this is something that we can **all relate** to...
    1. When difficulties happen, it becomes very easy to be tempted. (Is like being on a diet. But breaking it because you had a bad day.
  3. But in more **serious** terms, this can lead people to **commit terrible sins**.
    1. You can look through **history**, at moments when people **committed terrible acts**
    2. They **originate** from difficulty/trials. And it leads to physical and spiritual **death**.

**15** Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to **death**.

1. That is the path of putting your faith in that which fades away.
  1. Is **Death**.
  2. No **perseverance**

Again, **This temptation** and sin comes from us...Not from God.  
And that is **why he says**

**16** Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.

Don't be deceived because...

**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.**

Again,  
God does not tempt anybody... Instead, he is the **source of everything good in our lives.** (Every perfect gift.)

And the most **perfect gift** he gave is...

- **Salvation through Jesus Christ.**

If you **understand** and **believe** that he gave you that... you will **persevere** in the middle of any trial.

Gospel relation

1. But let's be real
  1. Sometimes we lack faith. Sometimes we don't persevere in the middle of trials.
  2. Sometimes we are going to fail in the face of trials just like **Peter** did.

If we go back to the **gospels.**

- When Peter started walking on the water with Jesus. **30 saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" (Matthew 14)**
  - And Remember the **wind**, is the same thing that James uses to describe **Trials.**
- **31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14)**

2. Peter was doing good at **first**, he was walking on the waters...
  1. But when he got distracted and looked at the wind (looked at the trial) He lost **doubt** and fell.
    1. And mind you, in the Gospel Peter is known as a man of **great Faith**.
    2. If that happened to him, **imagine us**.
  
3. But here is the good news
  1. THANK GOD, that Jesus was there to **save** Peter.
  2. Jesus was not **shaken or distracted** by the wind. He **Persevered perfectly** through the **ultimate trial** so that we didn't have to.
  
4. And that is the foundation of our **faith**.
  1. We persevere through trials, not on **our own strength**,
  2. But because of what **Jesus did**.

### **Life Application: Day to Day**

- Do I persevere in the face of daily trials?
  - **Am I patient?**
    - Or am I constantly stressed and desperate?
  - **Do I lose control emotionally?**
    - We live in a society that encourages emotional disorders. All emotions are validated as righteous.
      - Society tells you (this) but James tells you (that you can have joy, patience, peace, and endurance) If you have faith in Jesus Christ.
  - **Can I find Joy?**
    - Because you can be a person who endures well through trials but still lacks joy.
    - But you need to gain joy by understanding that...
      - God is at work to make me more like Jesus through the trial (To give me wisdom and perseverance)
      - Looking forward Well done, good and faithful servant!