

## Faith Takes Grit: Endure Trials in Pursuit of Wholeness

James 1:1-18

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**Pray:** That God would give you **joy** in trials and that you would **see yourself** being made complete/perfect through your trials.

### INTRODUCTION TO JAMES

God uses broken people, in a fragmented world, to display the wholeness we can have only in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. – v. 1

1. James calls himself a “servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ” here. What does he mean by that? Do you consider yourself a “servant” in the same way? What does that look and how do you apply that in your day-to-day living?

### TRIALS AND TRUSTING GOD

Believe your trials are accomplishing God’s will. – vv. 2-4, 12

1. Think of some previous and/or current trials in your life. Name them. Share them. In and through those trials do/did you give God your best? If not, what held you back?
2. What is the **ultimate purpose** of trials in our lives? What are the “by-products of God’s trials in your life? What does John 16:33 say about this?
3. Verse 4 uses the word “perfect” (ESV). Greek for perfect is “teleios” (mature, perfected, fully grown, complete). How does this help answer Q. #2? Where else in today’s passage do we find the usage of this word? Do a search? Where else in scripture is this used? When will this perfection/completion happen?

Trust God in your trial by praying for wisdom and faith. – vv. 5-8

1. In a trial, I really believe that we need to ask this question... “God, what lesson(s) do you want to teach me in this trial?” As you are in a trial, have you really asked that question **and** been open to hear what God has in store for an answer? How can that grow you in wisdom and in your faith?

Pursue what is permanent and don’t be consumed with the temporariness of life. – vv. 9-11

1. There are 2 types of people. Look up James 1:12 and 1 Peter 1:7. How do those verses help answer that question?

### REMEMBER AND REJOICE

**Remember:** God tests people, but never tempts people. – vv. 13-15.

1. What does this statement mean to you: “Choose to sin. Choose to suffer.” Do you feel that is accurate? Give examples from your life.

**Rejoice:** It is God’s perpetual pleasure to be good to His creation. – vv. 16-18

1. How could/should trials cause you to change how you speak? Will you be able to do that moving forward?
2. If you are a Christ follower, how does the umbrella example protect you from “heat” and “rain”?

Assignments:

1. Where are your desires leading to temptation? Share with someone for accountability.
2. What lessons have you learned by being in trials? Share these. Celebrate these. Thank God for these!!!