



Speaker: Matt Magee

Series: James

Sermon Title: Joy in Trials Produces Wholeness in Christ

Scripture: James 1:1-4

Main Idea: Main Idea: Joy in Trials Produces Wholeness in Christ

OUTLINE

1. James, God's servant, writes to encourage dispersed Christians facing persecution (1)
2. Christians WILL meet various (many-colored) trials (2)
 1. We must prepare for these trials.
 2. C.S. Lewis Quote: b. It seems to me that we often, almost sulkily, reject the good that God offers us because, at that moment, we expected some other good. -C.S. Lewis
 3. Call out to God - Psalm 118:5-6
 4. Why is it joyous to face and endure trials with joy?
3. Tested faith, when trusting in the Lord, produces steadfastness (3)
 1. Prov. 3:5-6
 2. 1. 1 Peter 5:8-10
 3. Consider it joy, then resist the devil
 4. God's love for us
 1. 1. unwavering
 2. unconditional
 3. never ending, regardless of who you are or what you've done
 5. Remember the tapestry image ([see the image and associated poem](#))
4. God's aim is to make is complete (4)
 1. Perfect, not sinless perfection, but perfectly complete for His purposes in our lives.

2. Crucial for our formation as a community of believers (2 Corinthians 1:3-7)
3. Do not worry, God has provided all we need in Him (2 Peter 1:3-8)

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What does it mean for James to call himself a *servant of God*? Why not “brother of Jesus”?
2. Consider what the first-century Christians endured, being dispersed from their homeland?
3. What kinds of trials are people facing in our Church right now? Your family?
4. Read C.S. Lewis' quote above. How did the quote from C.S. Lewis resonate with you?
 - a. What “good” from God have you struggled to accept?
 - b. How can expectations get in the way of trusting God during hard times?
 - c. How can setting our expectations properly help?
5. Read Psalm 118:5-6
 - a. What does this Psalm teach us about calling out to God in distress?
 - b. What would it look like to respond to a trial with confidence in God’s nearness?
6. How is *joy* different from *happiness*?
7. What’s something God has grown in you through a trial?
8. Can you name a moment where joy broke through in suffering?
9. Read verse 4 together.
10. What does “perfect” mean in this context?
 - a. How is being “perfect” different from being “sinless”?
 - b. What might God be completing in you through your current season?
11. How have you seen God use your pain to comfort others?
12. What does this passage say about shared suffering and shared comfort?
13. Read 2 Peter 1:3-8
 - a. According to this passage, what has God already given us?
 - b. How can we grow in these qualities as we go through trials?