
SERMON NOTES AND SCRIPTURE

James 1:1–8

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:
Greetings.

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,[a] 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.

1. Because of the hope and joy we have in Jesus, we can have triumph over trials.

2. Practice makes progress.

3. We need to be as sincere about receiving God's wisdom as he is about giving it to us.

TWO QUESTIONS:

- 1. What trials am I facing that I need to remind myself of the joy and hope that I have in Jesus to be able to triumph over them?**
- 2. Where in my life do I need to ask for wisdom from God?**

GROUP DISCUSSION

Please take a moment to read the passage of Scripture together.

As we read this passage, did anything surprise you?

How have you seen the testing of your faith produce perseverance in your walk with God?

How do we see joy and trials coexisting in James 1? Have you experienced that in your own faith?

Is there a time that comes to mind where you lacked wisdom in a trial you faced and went to God as it says in verse 6 and asked him for wisdom and he gave it to you generously? Share that with your life group.

How do you keep your heart and mind open to receiving wisdom from God?

As you experienced doubt in your faith, how has the community of God been influential in helping you work through it?

How can our life group pray for you as you process through this?