

**September 8th 2024**  
**James 1:1-18**  
**Trials and Temptations**

**James 1:1 ESV**

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

**John 7:5 ESV**

For not even his brothers believed in him.

**James 1:2–18 ESV**

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

joy is not the product of our circumstances but rather the most fundamental expression of Faith

**2 Corinthians 7:4 ESV**

I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.

## Keller-

C.S. Lewis- “We can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

**Romans 8:18- 18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

**2 Corinthians 4-16-17** , “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”

## Hebrews 12:1–2 ESV

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

## Romans 5:1-8

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we<sup>[a]</sup> have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith<sup>[b]</sup> into this grace in which we stand, and we<sup>[c]</sup> rejoice<sup>[d]</sup> in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us

## Grow Group questions

1. What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
2. How does understanding the context of this book help you read it?
3. Look back at the trials in your life. Where have you seen God at work?
4. Is there any trail in your life right now God might be inviting you to “count as joy”

5. How does looking at the cross help us count trials as joy? See Hebrews 12:1-2
6. Use Romans 5:1-8 as a prayer for your group time. Ask God to show you how these are the present realities you can walk in?
7. How might your grow group encourage one another to live out this passage this next week?
8. Finish your group time by asking if anyone in the group has a specific trial or temptation they could use prayer in. Pray over them?