

PURSUING WHAT MATTERS TO GOD

The Testing of Your Faith

(James 1:1-18) Study Notes Handout: Sept 20th

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trial 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. — James 1:2 — 4

God never uses anyone greatly until He tests them deeply. – A. W. Tozer
There is no testimony without the 'test'. – Anon.
Introduction: Who was James? Who was he writing? Why? $(1:1-3)$
To encourage the believers to
1. Having steadfast, patient endurance yields a reward for this life (1:2 – 11)
- Your faith will (vs. 2 – 4)
- Your wisdom will (vs. 5 – 6)
- Your life will (vs. 7 – 8)
- Your mortality will (vs. 9 – 11)
2. Having steadfast, patient endurance yields a reward for the life to come (1:12 – 18)
- Your inheritance will (vs. 12)
- Your destiny will (vs. 13 – 16)
- Your life will (vs. 17 – 18)



Study and Discussion Questions

James 1:1-18

Open It

- 1. How would you respond to someone who tells you that good can come from the trials which you are experiencing?
- 2. What doubts about God and prayer does the average person usually experience?

Explore It

- 3. What attitude did James tell people to exhibit when they are facing trials? (1:2)
- 4. What is produced when our faith is tested? (1:3-4)
- 5. What is God's response when we ask for wisdom? (1:5)
- 6. What reward awaits the person who perseveres under trial? (1:12)
- 7. From where does temptation come? (1:13-15)

Get It

- 8. Why does God allow people to go through trials and difficulties?
- 9. What good has ever come out of a difficult situation in your life?
- 10. How does a person's relationship with God change as he or she goes through trials and problems?
- 11. With what doubts have you struggled concerning God and prayer?
- 12. How would you explain to a ten-year-old why a person does something wrong or evil?

Apply It

- 13. What do you believe God is trying to teach you this week through the trials and situations you are experiencing?
- 14. In what specific areas do you need to ask God for His wisdom this week?
- 15. What temptations do you need God's help to resist this week?