

The BOOK of JAMES

WHAT VIBRANT *faith* LOOKS LIKE

Key Scriptures

James 1:2-8

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, 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.

Pure Joy

The Book of James was written to a church that was scattered and couldn't meet all together due to circumstances beyond their control. We're experiencing a similar separation as a church today. In difficult times like these, trials and temptations are inevitable, but God will empower us to persevere as we live out our faith.

Think Through.

We learned three points from last weekend's sermon:

- God is using trials to mature us. Ask God for His perspective, and trust His process. Times of trial give us an opportunity to draw closer to God. Ask Him to guide you, and stand firm in faith.
- Satan wants to use temptation to destroy us. Understand "the process of temptation" (deception, desire, disobedience, death), and be real about your weaknesses.
- We can use temptation as a target of growth. Remember "ACDC": **A**void the situation, **C**ounter with the Word, **D**evelop healthy friendships, **C**ommit to prayer. When you are tempted, with God's help, you can overcome and live in victory.

Share your insight.

1. What does it look like to truly trust God in the middle of a trial? Share about a time in your life when God empowered you to persevere through something difficult.
2. In times of trial, do you tend to trust God or fight for control? In what ways do you need to fully surrender to God?
3. In which of the four "ACDC" steps do you need to grow the most? What is a practical way to strengthen that part of your life? Read the rest of chapter 1.
4. Pastor encouraged us: "Winners don't quit. Quitters don't win." What areas in your life do you need to apply this encouragement?

Pray for one another.

- Share a trial or a temptation that is rocking your world right now. Let the group pray for you.
- Pray this corporately:
Jesus, thank You for the opportunity to meet together and build healthy relationships, even in the midst of trials and temptation. As we walk through this time, help us see from Your perspective, trust Your process, and overcome temptation so we can live in Your victory. IN YOUR NAME.