

Day Two

James 1:2-18

“2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet *trials* of various kinds, 3 for you *know* that the *testing* of your faith produces *steadfastness*. 4 And *let* *steadfastness* have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.



5 If any of you lacks wisdom, *let* him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6 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. 7 For that person *must not suppose* that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

9 *Let* the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, 10 and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. 11 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.

12 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.

13 *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. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

16 Do not be *deceived*, my beloved brothers. 17 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. 18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”

I. The Purpose of _____

A. Suffering arises from “trials of various kinds” (v. 1)

1. The _____ of God — “testing of your faith” (v. 3)

a) The Greek word for “testing” is only used twice in the NT, once here and once in I Peter 1:7.

b) I Peter 1:3-9, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various *trials*, 7 so that the *tested genuineness* of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you

*believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,
9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls."*

2. The _____ of sin (vv. 13-15)
 - a) God's part in temptation (v.13)
 - (1) God does not entice anyone to sin.
 - (2) The word used to describe God's inability to be tempted is different than the two words around it. Though someone may try to persuade God to sin as Satan did with Jesus in Matthew 4, it's impossible for Him to be enticed.
 - (3) There is nothing in God that desires evil. It's impossible because sin is everything that God isn't.
 - b) Man's part in temptation (v. 14-15)
 - (1) Temptation occurs when our own _____ entice us to sin.
 - (2) That desire leads to sin, and that sin leads to death.
 - c) The trials that come as a result of sin can come because of our own sin or the sin of others.
- B. Suffering ("*testing of your faith*") is designed to produce _____. (v. 3)
 1. Patience
 2. Endurance
 3. Perseverance
 4. Constancy
- C. Steadfastness is designed to produce _____. (v. 4)
 1. Perfect — brought to an end, finished
 2. Complete — touching every part of us
 3. Lacking Nothing — nothing left behind or inferior
- D. Maturity is designed to produce _____. (v. 12)
 1. Most of the promises in the Bible are conditional.
 2. In order to receive the blessing of joy and maturity, the Christian must remain steadfast.
 3. **If** he remains steadfast, he will receive the crown of life that God has _____.
 - a) The phrase "crown of life" is only used one other time in the NT.
 - b) Revelation 2:10 Jesus tells the church in Smyrna: "*Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the **crown of life.***"
 - c) The Greek word translated "tested" is the same word for "temptation" in James 1:13.

II. The Nature of _____

- A. God does not tempt to sin, but He does test us so that we may be conformed to the image of Christ for the glory of Christ. (v. 13)
- B. God is working through our suffering to mature us. (v. 4)
- C. God generously gives the wisdom necessary to navigate and mature through suffering. (v. 5)
- D. God withholds wisdom from those who _____ Him. (v. 7)
- E. God promises to give the steadfast a crown of life. (v. 12)
- F. God gives every good and perfect gift. (v. 17)
- G. God is the Father of lights. (v. 17)

- H. God never _____ . (v. 17)
- I. God created us by His own Word of Truth. (v. 18)
- J. God intends for us to be the first fruits of his creation. (v. 18)

III. The _____ of a Christian Who Knows the Purpose of Suffering and the Nature of God

- A. What the Christian knows, understands, and believes:
 1. He knows that testing produces steadfastness.
 2. He knows that doubting God produces only want and need.
 3. He knows that God does not tempt Him to sin.
 4. He knows that God only brings into his life that which is good.
 5. He knows everything this passage outlines concerning suffering and the Savior.
- B. What the Christian _____:
 1. He counts suffering as a joyful experience; whether it's temptation or testing.
 2. He lets steadfastness work in him. He doesn't fight it.
 3. He asks God for the wisdom necessary to navigate suffering.
 4. He asks for that wisdom in faith.
 5. He rejoices in his spiritual exaltation in Christ.
 6. He rejoices in the humility of suffering because the eternal gain of what God is accomplishing is far better than temporal riches.
 7. He doesn't blame God for his temptation, but blames himself instead.
 8. He passes The Test of Perseverance in Suffering (1:2–12).
 9. He passes The Test of Blame in Temptation (1:13–18).

IV. The Response of a Person (servant of Christ or unsaved) Who *Doubts* the Purpose of Suffering and the Nature of God (vv. 5-8)

- A. Suffering is designed to test our faith, and through testing produces steadfastness that matures us.
- B. Doubt is a lack of _____. (v. 6)
- C. Doubt allows changing circumstances and shifting experiences to shake the individual's confidence. (v. 6)
- D. This person should _____ expect that suffering will produce maturity because the tests will revealed a tragic *lack* of faith. (v. 7)
- E. This is a practical fulfillment of the conditional promise in Romans 8:28.
- F. This individual is double-minded. (v. 8)
- G. This individual is _____ in all that he does. (v. 8)

V. The _____ for the Unstable

- A. Choose to be joyful. (v. 2)
- B. Learn the purpose of suffering and nature of God. (James 1:2-18)
- C. Ask for wisdom. (v. 5)
- D. Choose to believe the purpose of suffering and nature of God. (v. 6)
- E. Boast in how God is working to exalt you in your humility and be thankful for the suffering. (v. 9-11)
- F. Don't blame God for your spiritual struggles. (v. 13)
- G. Repent of your sin.