

TO LIVE IS CHRIST**Trials of Many Kinds****James 1:1–18**

“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.” James 1:12

Day 1: Read James 1:1–8.

1. What does James say we should consider “pure joy” (vs. 1)? Do you think he’s exaggerating?
2. What is James’ reasoning? What is the function of trials in your life? (Rom. 5:3–5)
3. How exactly do trials test your faith? How do they tempt you to not believe in Jesus? Give an example from your life.

Day 2: Read James 1:1–8.

4. How does perseverance develop through trials and the testing of your faith? Share a time when you persevered with Jesus under trial and developed perseverance as a result.
5. If we persevere in faith through our trials what fruit will God bring about in us? (vs. 4)
6. If you lack wisdom, what should you do? What are the chances you will receive what you ask for? (vs. 5)
7. What person will not receive wisdom or anything else from the Lord? (vss. 6–8)
8. Is there anyone who never doubts? What kind of doubt do you think James means? What does double-mindedness look like? (4:4) What does single-mindedness look like? Pray that God would help you believe. (Mk. 9:24)

Day 3: Read James 1:9–12.

9. What do the flowers teach us about the right attitude toward being either rich or poor? (vss. 9–11)
10. Revisiting the idea of persevering under trial, James says that a person who does this will be “blessed.” What do you think it’s like to live under God’s blessing? (1 Pet. 5:10)
11. According to verse 12, for whom are God’s blessings of life reserved?

Day 4: James 1:13–15.

12. James reminds us that God is not in heaven thinking of ways to trip us up. What is the source of temptations then? (vs. 14; Gen. 4:7)
13. Earlier in the chapter James traced the trajectory from trial to faith to perseverance to maturity to a crown of life. What is the ominous trajectory described in verse 14 that you want to avoid?
14. Is it a sin to be tempted? (1 Cor. 10:13; Heb. 4:15)
15. At what point in your thinking do you suppose desire “conceives”? Where do you cross the line from temptation into sin?
16. Think to yourself of a time when you were “dragged away” (vs. 14) by a desire, and it gave birth to sin, and then ultimately to a kind of death. How do you think you can nip that process in the bud at the desire stage next time? (Heb. 4:16)

Day 5: Read James 1:16–18.

17. What is James’ answer to the person who thinks she has earned the good things in her life by her own merit? (vss. 16–18) Tell of something good that’s happened to you that had nothing to do with your plans or your good behavior, but was just a pure out-of-the-blue kiss from God.
18. What did God choose to give you? (vs. 18) If he did this much, how does this reassure you about his power and willingness to help you in your trials? (Rom. 8:31–32)