

Sermon: Perspective and Purpose in Our Trials.
Series: *James: Real Wisdom, Real Faith.*

Scripture: James 1:1-4.
Date: September 5, 2021

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1) What does this passage teach us about God?

a) What is God's purpose in our trials according to James 1:3-4? See also 1 Peter 1:6-7. Does this encourage you? Why or why not?

2) What does this passage teach us about us?

a) James doesn't say IF we face trials, but rather WHEN we face trials. What trials of your faith are you facing today? OR...where have you been needing wisdom lately?

b) How might your perspective on your trial be skewed? More importantly how might your trial be skewing your perspective on God?

c) When have you seen a specific trial deepen your faith in God and his goodness?

3) What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) Read Hebrews 12:1-3. How did Jesus face his great trial of the cross (or, how did he obey James 1:2-4)?

b) How does the gospel of Jesus Christ allow you to trust God's heart in the midst of your trial today?

APPLICATION

a) What specific gospel truth will you hold on to in the midst of your trial – name it!

b) How can your small group community help you to “hyper-stand” (be steadfast) in your trial?

FIGHTER VERSES: James 1:16-22.

PRAYER

- Praise God for his good heart that seeks to destroy our sin without destroying us.
- Confess ways that you have failed to persevere in your faith under trial.
- Thank Jesus for counting it all joy to face the cross and persevere for the sake of his love for us.
- Ask God to empower you to stand up under trial this week.