

FaithWorks:

A Journey Through James

Week 1: Faith Works For Joy

- ❖ Philippians 4:4 - Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
Joy = A good **feeling** in your **soul**.

- ❖ James claims joy is a **thermostat**, not a **thermometer**.

- ❖ James 1:2 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds,
James 1:3 - because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.
James 1:4 - Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

- ❖ Joy's Key is **Jesus Christ**.

- ❖ James 1:5 - 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.

- ❖ Psalm 23:1 - The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

- ❖ Psalm 103 - Praise the LORD, o my soul...and forget not all his benefits...The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love...He does not treat us as our sins deserve.

Points to Ponder

1. Name 2-3 "trials" you are currently going through. Do you consider them "pure joy"? Why or why not?
2. Evaluate: Whoever assumes temporary things will last forever will eventually be bitter towards God.

3. Read Paul's famous words from Philippians 4:4-7 (add v.11-13 if you have time). How does Paul exemplify the "mature" Christian James wrote about in tonight's message?

Homework For Next Week: James 1:19-27

*"I have learned the secret of being content in every situation...
I can do all things through Christ!"
~ The Apostle Paul*