



Triumphing Through Trials

Part 1

James 1:1-12

July 5, 2026

Pastor Vaughn

1. The unsettling reality: Trials of all kinds are inevitable for us in this life.

2. God designs the trials that come into our lives to strengthen our faith and propel us to maturity.

3. The strategy for seeing God turn our trials into triumphs -
 - To grow stronger and more mature when tested by trials we must:
 - Respond by facing trials with a joyous attitude

 - Resolve to patiently maintain a submissive will to our Lord all the way through our season of testing

 - Request wisdom from God

 - Re-align our perspective on our temporal circumstances

 - Rest in our assured future hope

James 1:1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

4 And let endurance have [its] perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

8 [being] a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

9 But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position;

10 and the rich man [is to glory] in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away.

11 For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.

12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which [the Lord] has promised to those who love Him.

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others. For more information about Koinonia Groups at Heritage Church that utilize these questions as the basis for their discussion, please see Pastor Vaughn or e-mail Vaughn@hcgj.org.

1. Why did James describe himself as “a slave of God and the Lord Jesus Christ?”

Should we regard ourselves in the same way? Why?

2. God could insulate His children completely from all trials, and yet He doesn't do that. Instead, in His sovereignty, He allows us to experience trials of all kinds. Why?

How would you explain this truth to a new Christian?

3. According to the message, how do joy and happiness differ?

4. As Christians, why are we able to consider the trials we experience in this life as pure joy?

What should we do when a particular trial doesn't pass quickly?

5. How can we be a source of encouragement for a brother or sister in Christ who is in the midst of a difficult trial?

Here are some resources that may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Vaughn cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Blomberg, Craig L. and Miriam J. Kawell. **Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament V 16**. Zondervan 2008.

Hughes, Kent R. **James, Faith That Works**. Crossway, 1991.

Lenski, Richard C.H., **The Interpretation to the Epistle to the Hebrews and the Epistle of James**. Augsburg Fortress, 1946, 2008.

MacArthur, John. **The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: James**. Moody Publishers, 1998.

Moo, Douglas J. **The Letter of James**. Intersarsity, 1985.

Varner, William. **The Book of James, A New Perspective**. Kress, 2010.

Zodihates, Spires. **The Work of Faith**. Eerdmans 1959.

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