



April 12, 2026
Faith in Action - Trials & Temptations
James 1:1-18
Pastor Mike Griffin

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business. 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. When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

Questions for Personal or Small Group Use

Opening

When has your faith been reflected in or through your actions recently?

Discussion

- What are the different situations described here in which you see the need for Christians to persevere?
- How do you respond to the idea that we should "consider it pure joy" whenever we "face trials of many kinds" (v. 2)? Why is this hard to do?
- How are perseverance and maturity developed in us by enduring trials (vs. 3-4)? What difficulties have increased your perseverance and maturity?
- How might trials expose our need for God's wisdom?
- Under pressure, how does a faithful Christian (vs. 5-6) contrast with the person described in vs. 6-8?
- How and when have you struggled with doubts in what you have prayed for? How has that led to instability?
- How are pride and riches other sources of instability? In what ways do you tend to rely on your possessions?
- Just as there is a process of trials developing maturity there is a downward cycle where temptation leads to evil desires which give birth to sin & death. How do you stay out of this negative downward cycle?
- How does understanding God as the giver of every good and perfect gift give us strength to endure trials and temptations? How is this a source of joy for you?
- How does understanding the consistent character of God & the word of truth lead to hope for rebirth?
- How is the word of truth a source of rebirth & renewal?

Application

How can you cooperate with God in accomplishing the purposes for which He is allowing this trial (1:3-4)? How can God use this trial to make you more mature and like His Son?
