



COMMITTED – COMMIT TO GOOD WORKS

Community Group Study Guide: James 1:1-5 – Week of March 19, 2023

1. Commit to Good Works

It is nearly a universal understanding that Christians are called to good works. This imperative is recognized both inside and outside of the Church. It is often common for non-believers to assign and have an expectation of Christians performing good works. Furthermore, Scripture is littered with instruction on how we are to act; the works we are to undertake. However, for many of us, knowing the good works we are called to do is not the obstacle that keeps us from completing them to our utmost. Often, what hinders us from good works is our inability to receive God's training for those works. Primarily, it is because God often uses trials to test and grow our faith.

2. Commit to counting it all joy

James instructs us all to count trials as joy. These challenges are often the way that the Lord develops our capacity. It is a way that we are trained and strengthened, allowing us to increase our steadfast ability to complete good works. Often, our ability and willingness to rejoice in trials is a key indicator in how effective we will be in completing the works assigned to us. We see this principal of hardship creating good all throughout the scripture, but no more so in the sacrifice of Jesus. The ultimate suffering, the ultimate injustice brought about the ultimate good. Out of the worst circumstances, God is still working it for good... For His glory and our salvation. So in turn we can examine our trials in life through that same perspective. The degree to which we as Christians can stay committed to good works for God is dependent upon the degree which we can rejoice in our training from God.

3. Ask the Lord for Wisdom

God promises to give generously to those who ask for

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

We are called to live lives that pursue and produce good works for the glory and kingdom of God. We are to remain steadfast in this pursuit.

Heart

God uses trials to grow us, to produce greater capacity for His kingdom's purpose. We should rejoice in these trials, knowing that the Lord is allowing hardships to test our faith and produce steadfastness.

Hands

Count it joy when you meet trials of various kinds.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Friday Service
4/7 @ 6pm

wisdom. This wisdom is highly useful for the completion and understanding of the good works that we are called to. It helps us distinguish between trials, and it helps us to apply our growth to additional good works.

Read James 1:1-5

1. What good works are we called to? What is the relationship between calling and good works?
2. What is the purpose of trials in our lives? What is the correct way to respond? How are we tempted to incorrectly respond?
3. Having joy in the face of trials can be difficult. How do you encourage your own heart during these circumstances? How do we apply the Gospel to challenging situations?
4. How has the Lord used past challenges to grow steadfastness in your life? What scriptures help aid as you faced the challenges?
5. Pastor Andy mentioned that there is temptation to over-spiritualized trials. What did he mean by this? How can we/how should we properly asses our situations?
6. James instructs those who lack in wisdom to ask the Lord for it. Should all Christians ask for wisdom? Why or why not?
7. How does wisdom aid us in the doing of good works?
8. Where in your life are you being called to a good work that you are not fulfilling? What is keeping you from the completion of that good work?