

James: A Faith that Walks – Joy in Trials (1:2-4)

1. Three Main Categories of Trials (1:2) *12 tribes scattered abroad

A. We live in a _____, sinful world, bad terrible things will happen (*Rm5:12; Jn16:33*)

B. God _____ those He loves (*Heb12:4-11; John15:2*)

*God disciplines us for sinning; He loves us so He prunes us, that we can be more fruitful

C. Living a _____ life (*Jn15:18-23; 2Tim3:12; 1Pe4:12-19; consider Job, Job1:8*)

2. God Uses Trials for His Purpose (1:3-4)

A. Does God cause trials or allow them? _____ – *Rom8:28; Job2:10; Lam3:37-40*

B. God sovereignly uses all trials in our lives for His purpose of love: *rebuke, discipline, growth

*ex. Myriam leprosy

*ex. Jesus confronted Peter's denial, to restore Peter in love

*ex. Consider the story of Joseph and his brothers... slavery, prison, then... *Gen50:20*

*ex. fallen world/sin = death = *Caesar Augustus... Pilate and the cross!*

C. If we **trust** God and **know** His purpose then we will have JOY in the trials (notice "**knowing**" in vs.3)

1. Consider it all joy: imperative command; conscious commitment to count pure, total, sheer joy

*Follow your heart? _____ *Jer17:9*.

***we trust God** and look on trials as a welcomed friend, God bestows complete joy!

2. when you encounter (fall into unexpectedly) *various trials... Gk. many-colored, diverse

*many different types of trials, many different sources: health, slander, finances etc.

3. **THE KEY**: _____ ...God is sovereign; I belong to Him; and He loves me, is for me

**Rom8:28; Acts4:27-29; Ja1:1* – bond-slave; *Lam3:15-26,31-32; and the cross!*

D. If I **know** and **trust** God; then I _____ God's purpose in trials

1. to _____ our faith: Gk. test to prove/disprove genuine

*these trials are used by God to test our faith = our trust in Him and His word

2. to _____ endurance= patiently endure; permanent inner quality of strength that increases

*Ex. Olympic athlete

3. to make us mature, lacking nothing – goal is Christlikeness (*Rom8:29; Phil3:12-14*)

*God never uses someone greatly, He has not first _____ greatly!

*He humbles me, so I and the world, see Him! **Is12:1-6*(see vs.4); *Ps23:4*

*Ex. Daniel = lions' den; Gideon = 300; David = run from Saul 10yrs wilderness!

E. What is God doing in YOUR life?

1. **Ex.** hammer... sledge hammer... bull-dozer... **IF** we are His; _____

2. **Quote** from Amy Carmichael, missionary to South India, endured many great hardships

3. **Job23:10** – many/various trials are _____ of God's great love; we are His!

*What are the various/many trials that God is using in your life to make you into His masterpiece?

*Are you able to see them with JOY? Why or why not?