

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?