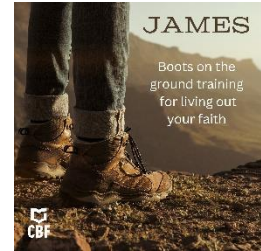


## **James 1:1-8 – Dealing with Tough Times in Life**

WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART WHEN TRIALS COME INTO IN OUR LIVES?



### **1. What is a trial – v. 2**

- a. “Count it all joy...” = to welcome as a friend
  - To be as excited to go through a trial as you are to see your friend show up
- b. “When” – We don’t need to study out what a trial is, we all have them! The point here is that they will come.
- c. Trials in life are intended to strengthen the believer.

### **2. What trials can do – v. 3-8**

- a. They can help us grow in our relationship with God – v. 3-4
  - “Steadfastness” = endurance, patiently waiting, not swerving from what one knows to be true
  - “Perfect, complete, lacking nothing” = a repetitive statement to emphasize the result - can mean that one is complete, completely put together with nothing at all left out.
- b. They can strengthen our faith – vv.5-8
  - If we ask, God is willing to give us His wisdom as we go through trials.
  - “wisdom” = knowing how to best apply knowledge to a given situation (Romans 11:33-34)
  - Asking in faith is key to receiving His wisdom
  - “faith” = conviction of the truth of anything, specifically that what God says about trials is true
  - For someone without faith nothing should be expected from God (v.7)

### **Final thoughts:**

1. When trials come, how do you respond?
2. How would responding to trials like God teaches us through James help the “hard parts” of a trial that we talked about earlier?