

Conversation Starters

- What was your greatest trial in the past?
- Is there a more recent trial you have had or are going through currently?

Discuss

We're all going to face trials in life. Whether it's a flat tire, a broken relationship, job loss, poor health or something else, in the book of James, we're challenged to approach it with joy. To see it as an opportunity to develop endurance that will lead to completeness.

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. ([James 1:2-4 NLT](#))

- How do you typically react to trials?
- How would you rate your trial endurance right now?

Those who have a relationship with Christ have the unique privilege of bringing every need to God through prayer. All throughout the Bible we see that God is eager to hear from His followers and is generous to supply them with everything they need. James tells us to ask for, specifically, wisdom from God – and God's wisdom may not be your natural wisdom.

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. ([James 1:5-6 NLT](#))

- Is there anything unsettled in your relationship with God?
- How has God been generous to you?
- Do you often rely on yourself rather than God when going through trials?

Life on earth is temporary, but Christians believe true and eternal life is still to come. Life now is one great big test for that. Those facing the toughest times have been given opportunity for the most life-change – in their character and spirit. God doesn't promise happiness in a relationship with Him nor does He tempt us to sin. But He'll sometimes allow us to be tested, and if we ask Him, He'll be right there with us helping us endure through it all.

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. ([James 1:12 NLT](#))

- Do you ever think about life in light of eternity?
- Do you expect constant happiness in a relationship with God?
- Do you have the desire for any type of growth in your life?
- How does knowing that God is with us in trials change how you think about them?

Next Steps

God is more generous and loving than we can imagine. He wants to hear from us and stands ready to help [like an eager father wanting to help his son or daughter](#). With Him, we can endure beyond our own capacity. Spend some time in prayer this week sharing your trials and how you're doing with them, and ask God for His wisdom as you endure.

Connecting with others is a great way to endure in trials as well. Here are some great opportunities to get involved right now:

1. Attend a [service online](#). And chat with others there too!
2. Follow and interact with us on [social media](#).
3. Join us for a class in the [Meck Institute](#) – yep, online!
4. [Let us know](#) how we can pray for you too and if you need to speak with anyone!

Further Reflection

Read [James 1:1-15](#).

Pray

God, You are so kind and incredibly generous. Why You desire so deeply to know us is so hard to fathom. Forgive us for trying to do life without You. Thank You for being with us during our trials. Give us Your wisdom when we go through them and help us to endure and remain faithful throughout.