

2Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. James 1:3-5

•In 2016, a family from the southern US who have chosen to remain anonymous were sifting through their late great-grandparents' belongings and came across an old paper bag, which they assumed was filled with trash. The bag was destined for the dump but one of the family members checked the contents before ditching it and pulled out seven Ty Cobb baseball cards, along with some old postcards and papers. Dubbed 'the Lucky Seven Find', the ultra-rare cards date from the early 1900s and are worth more than \$1 million.

☑ The question that James is gonna answer for us is actually a question we're all asking- **What do we do when there's nothing we can do?**

•When it is what it is, and we don't particularly like what it is...

☑ James says- "**Whenever you face trials**"...

•Not if ever, whenever- **you can't pray them away, you can't obey them away, you can't faith them away. Trials are going to come.**

•When sin entered the world, sin held the door, sorrow, death, disappointment and illness walked right in.

•**Financially**- Lost job. Mounting debt. Spend more to get less. For some of you, lost opportunity that's not coming back, planning to retire and gonna have to put that off. In fact, you're not sure you'll ever retire.

•**Relationships**- You're alone. Bad break up/divorce. And then you go on Facebook or Instagram and it looks like everybody else in the world has somebody but you don't have somebody.

•**Health**-

○ "**Whenever you face trials of many kinds**".

•Greek word translated face is a really interesting word, **carries the idea of being taken by surprise. Used in context of being robbed.**

• **"Whenever you are surprised/robbed by trials".**

*Whenever you have an **OH NO DAY**. you get that call, oh, no. Your child calls, the doctor calls. **You're surprised/robbed by a trial.**

•James says- **"count it all JOY" ... /consider it**

•Adjust your perspective, adjust your thinking, **Rethink it.**

•Reframe or rethink your trial in such a way that you can begin to see it as a **source of joy. How can he say this without knowing the circumstances of our lives?** Something good is going to come out of this! **There's a treasure in this TRIAL!**

☑The testing of your faith does two things, it **demonstrates** something and it **produces** something.

○**It demonstrates whether or not your faith is real.**

*"Because you know that the **testing** of your faith" ...

•**And what is a test? Testing is the process used to determine the authenticity of something.**

• **Trials expose the authenticity of our faith.**

•**Faith, is referring to our confidence in God.- Trials expose the authenticity of our confidence in God.**

•**Faith is simply confidence that God already did something!**

•Faith is simply confidence that God is who God reveals himself to be in HIS WORD and that he will do everything he's promised.

•*When circumstances begin to deteriorate, artificial, counterfeit, and what's-in-it-for-me faith deteriorates right along with it.*

•**James says there is joy in discovering what you really had.**

•I didn't know I could pray like that/praise like that/talk like that.

• I didn't know I had that Level of FAITH in ME!

✓ *It also produces something. Here's what it produces.*

○ *"Over time, the trials that you're facing will produce, perseverance".*

• **Perseverance- The ability to hold up under pressure or under stress.**

• In other words, he says- "Trials make our faith stronger".

* **We experience hard times to get better at dealing with hard times. - You go through hard times to deal with harder times.**

• ***What are you praying about right now?***-this trial, this difficult time that you're going through, this thing that you wish would change, it has your undivided attention. And this what you're praying about, in fact, perhaps you haven't prayed in a long time and suddenly you find yourself praying, why? **Because that's what trials do. It exercises our faith.**

* ***And allow perseverance to finish its work***". Don't bail out in the middle of the process.

• ***V. 4 (MSG) So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.***

• im/Pre-mature/mature. ***Rush- Don't grow up. Stop Growing. "I can't"***

• Physically he can't stop. **But spiritually you can!**

○ ***Let perseverance finish its work so that you might be mature and complete, not lacking anything***".

• And he's using a little play on words here. ***Let perseverance complete its work so that you will be complete***".

• You know the missing piece you've been struggling to find? Peace/joy/ confidence/understanding? **It's on the other side of this trial!!**

•3And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Romans 5:3-4

•Perseverance produces the character within you to do the right thing even though your circumstances have't changed.

☑ WE DON'T REJOICE FOR THE TRIAL.WE REJOICE IN THE TRIAL!

•Faith is being proven and perseverance being produced.

•Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. James 1:12

•I am blessed to get through it!

•temptations tests and trials.- Get through it and God will reward you!!

•Has your faith ever been tested? Did you pass the test? And did you come out with more faith, less faith? If so, why? And if not, why not?

•If you're struggling with what your going through then pray the one prayer that plays gets an answer- WISDOM.