

January 28, 2018  
MOVE - Part 1

## **“Joy in Trials and Temptations?”**

**James 1:22** (NIV): “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

**A major theme that runs throughout James is that faith isn't faith until it's put into action.**

**James 2:17** (NIV): “In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

**James is writing to Christians who have likely experienced hard times because of the faith they've claimed.**

**James 1:2** (NIV): “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds”

**Every significant man and woman of faith in the Bible endured suffering and hard times.**

**In the original Greek language, this statement is written in the imperative case, as a command and not a suggestion.**

**James isn't suggesting that we should be happy when something goes wrong or pretend that everything's ok.**

**If we allow God to work in and *through* our trials, we can *find joy* in what God can do in us.**

**James 1:3-4** (NIV): “<sup>3</sup>because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. <sup>4</sup>Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

**Romans 8:28** (NLT): “And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”

**When we “know” that God will “cause everything to work together for good,” then we recognize that God can *use* these “trials” to develop in us “perseverance.”**

**Persevering can help grow our spiritual nature into being “mature and complete.”**

**“mature” (*teleios*, Greek) – something becoming or fulfilling its purpose**

**God’s purpose is to bring us to “maturity,” to who God created us to be, to becoming more and more like Jesus Christ.**

**2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT): “...the Lord – who is the Spirit – makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.”**

**We can “consider [trials] pure joy,” not because of what’s happening to us, but because of what *God can do through* those trials so we learn to persevere and thereby increasingly learn to trust Him in our lives.**

**James 1:5 (NIV): “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”**

**The God who created you wants to share with us His “wisdom.”**

**Dr. David Osborn: “Too often we try to use God to change our circumstances, while he is using our circumstances to change us.”**

**Proverbs 2:1-7 (NLT): “<sup>1</sup>My child, listen to what I say, and treasure my commands. <sup>2</sup>Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding. <sup>3</sup>Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding. <sup>4</sup>Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures. <sup>5</sup>Then you will understand what it means to fear the LORD, and you will gain knowledge of God. <sup>6</sup>For the LORD grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding. <sup>7</sup>He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest. He is a shield to those who walk with integrity.”**

**The more we seek His “wisdom” in our “trials” and put that into action, the more we’ll learn to trust Him.**

**James 1:6-8 (NIV): “<sup>6</sup>But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup>he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.”**

**A faithful disciple of Jesus Christ chooses to trust him, because faith is a choice and action that leads to a life of strength and peace, even in the midst of our “trials.”**

**James 1:12 (NIV): “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.”**

**A life run in faith, that “perseveres” through the trials of life, will receive the glorious reward of eternal life.**

**2 Corinthians 4:17 (NLT):** “For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!”

**Obedience is the clearest sign that we believe and trust God.**

**Jesus:** “If you love me, obey my commandments.” (John 14:15 NLT)

#### **Week 1 Memory Verse**

**James 1:12 (NIV):** “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.”