

TAKE HOME SHEET



Series: Lessons Learned
Message: Part One
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: September 19, 2021

Re-read James 1:2-8. Now, think about the key words we looked at and what God wants you to learn and apply regarding each of them, especially during trying and difficult times.

opportunity for great joy –

Do I see God in the midst of my trouble? Do I invite Him to work in and through me?

endurance

How does patiently walking through trouble and trials make me stronger in my faith?

perfect and complete

The idea here is maturity.

wisdom

How has God been using the events and circumstances of the past 18 months to teach me wisdom? What have I learned?

divided loyalty

Have I stayed true and devoted to Christ or (if I am honest) have I followed other avenues to cope? Is God proud of my faithfulness to Him, His church and His work?

unstable

Has my faith been weakened during the past year and a half or is it stronger?

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:

NLT – New Living Translation

MESSAGE NOTES



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A mark of spiritual maturity and wisdom is continual learning.

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.

²⁴ Point out anything in me that offends you,
and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Psalm 139:23–24 (NLT)

A mark of immaturity is resisting change.

They prove the truth of this proverb: “A dog
returns to its vomit.” And another says, “A
washed pig returns to the mud.”

2 Peter 2:22 (NLT)

**All humans encounter trouble and trials, but
followers of Jesus recognize them as
opportunities to grow and show their faith.**

² Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of
any kind come your way, consider it an
opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that
when your faith is tested, your endurance has a
chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your
endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect
and complete, needing nothing. ⁵ If you need
wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give
it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. ⁶ 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. ⁷ Such
people should not expect to receive anything
from the Lord. ⁸ Their loyalty is divided between
God and the world, and they are unstable in
everything they do.

James 1:2–8 (NLT)

opportunity for great joy

endurance

perfect and complete

wisdom

divided loyalty

unstable

**Here is a major lesson from the past 18
months:**

**It is easier to stake out a battleground than
to search for common ground.**

²² Yes, I try to find common ground with
everyone, doing everything I can to save some.
²³ I do everything to spread the Good News and
share in its blessings.

1 Corinthians 9:22–23 (NLT)