

## IN THE FIRE – PART I “Coping with Trials” James 1:1-8

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James was writing to people who were having a rough go of things. In fact, it would be fair to say they were living in crisis mode. During the covid pandemic many of us have had our fair share of challenges. Some trials are minor in nature while others may take us right to the end of our emotional and spiritual rope. James wrote to his people to give them some ways they could make sense out of trials and cope with them through God’s help. The advice James gives his readers will strengthen you as you walk through your difficult times.

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### #1. TRIALS ARE A \_\_\_\_\_ PART OF LIFE, v. 1

- A. James - The Lord’s brother, 1 Cor 15:7, Gal 1:19
- B. A servant (doulos) of God & of the Lord Jesus Christ
- C. The 12 tribes of Israel
- D. The 12 tribes scattered (Acts 8:1, 11:19)
- E. The Jewish Christians had to leave Jerusalem

### #2. TRIALS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A SOURCE OF \_\_\_\_\_, v. 2

- A. Joy is an unnatural response to trials
- B. Joy requires an altered perspective of trials
- C. Joy can be found in many trials

### 3. TRIALS TEST YOUR \_\_\_\_\_, v. 3

- A. The process of testing (*dokimion*)
- B. Will you continue to trust the Lord?
- C. Will you stop praying?
- D. Will you stop reading the Bible?
- E. Will you become a dropout?
- F. Will you walk away from the Lord?

### #4. TRIALS PRODUCE \_\_\_\_\_, vv. 3-4

- A. Testing faith develops perseverance (*hupomone*: *patient endurance, steadfastness, stay the course, perseverance, spiritual stamina*), v. 3
- B. Spiritual stamina is a trait of mature believers, v. 4
- C. Spiritual stamina makes a believer complete, v. 4
- D. Spiritual stamina gives you coping skills, v. 4

### #5. TRIALS REQUIRE \_\_\_\_\_, v. 5

- A. We don’t know how to respond in trials, Prov 2:6, 12
- B. We don’t know what God wants us to do
- C. We can’t figure out what God is doing

### #6. TRIALS ENHANCE YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ LIFE, vv. 5-8

- A. Believers pray for wisdom, v. 5
- B. God will give wisdom generously, v. 5
- C. God won’t lay a guilt-trip on you, v. 5
- D. God requires faith in our prayer life, v. 6, Mk 11:23-24
- E. An illustration: the doubting man is like a wave of the sea, v. 6
- F. A doubter shouldn’t expect to hear from God, v. 7
- G. A doubter is double-minded & unstable, v. 8

### NOTES:

## Discussion Questions

- #1. Discuss the historical background to James' letter?
- #2. How do you think James' readers, who were living in crisis, felt when he told them to consider trials a source of joy?
- #3. What are some of your common responses to trials?
- #4. List the reasons why believers can consider trials a source of joy.
- #5. Define spiritual stamina? Why is it an important virtue for Christians?
- #6. What is the relationship between a trial and the need for wisdom?
- #7. What is the relationship between prayer and faith? (vv. 6-8, Matthew 7:7-11, Mark 11:22-24)
- #8. Most mature Christians have gone through a multitude of trials, which is a primary reason they are mature in the faith. Agree or disagree? State your reasons why?
- #8. Describe the characteristics of a double-minded man or woman.
- #9. How has this teaching influenced the way you will pray during a trial?
- #10. What is your takeaway from this teaching?

ANSWERS: Normal, Joy, Faith, Stamina, Wisdom, Prayer.

# ***Hillcrest Church Welcomes You!***

***GIVING GOD OUR BEST – 2021!***

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and  
sisters, whenever you face  
trials of many kinds,*





*James 1:2*

***October 3, 2021***

***Pastor Bruce Guckelberg, PhD***

## **ANNCOUCEMENTS**

### **JOIN US ONLINE FOR**

Tuesday Bible study at 6:30, Wednesday study & Prayer at 6:30.  Click the “online meeting room” link on the home page of the website [Hillcrestroseville.com](http://Hillcrestroseville.com)

### **YOGA FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

Pastor Bruce is a certified Yoga instructor and will be offering a class every Saturday at 10:00 and another class during the week. Time to be announced

### **MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DAVID HELDT**

Former member of Hillcrest Church has gone to be with the Lord. His memorial service is Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, at 2pm.

### **FACILITY TRANSFORMATION**

The facility keeps looking better and better. When you are in the building next Sunday you will notice, new sconces have been added which have brightened up the place considerably. New lights have been installed in the entrance area and the sanctuary painting is completed, except for the stage. Thanks to Keith for installing all the lights. Great Work!

### **HELP WITH MEDIA**

If you would like to help with the sound system and/or media please let Aaron, Johanna, or DJ know and we can train you.

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Our offering box is located in the back of the sanctuary. You can place your tithes and offerings there, or you can visit our website and give online ([hillcrestroseville.com](http://hillcrestroseville.com)). Thank you for supporting the gospel ministry of Hillcrest Church.