



Community Bible Church
Pastor Bob DuPar
January 21, 2018

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Trials

James 1:2-8

Background & Introduction:

1 Consider

“Consider it all joy, my brethern, when you encounter various trials.” *James 1:2*

2 Know

“Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” *James 1:3-4*

3 Ask

“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.”
James 1:5-6

Application:



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Week of January 21, 2018

Go Deep Study Guide

Trials

James 1:2-8

Getting Started

What did you find most helpful from this week's sermon? Was anything confusing? Is there anything that needs clarification? Discuss as a group.

If you haven't heard the sermon yet, you can access it at: www.cbcventura.org

Going Deeper

Re-read James 1:1-12

Share about a recent trial that caused you to struggle over your faith. What aspects of your faith or God's character were a struggle? Why?

What's the first thing that James commands us to do with respect to trials? How is this possible? What things are we to consider? How can trials be an occasion for joy?

Share verses from Scripture that teach us similar truths about how God uses our trials to develop us/grow us. Here are two to get you going: Romans 5:3-4; 1 Peter 5-7.

What are we to know/understand in verses 3-4? How would you define spiritual endurance? What does it mean to you?

What's the difference between a situation that tests us and one that tempts us? What's the difference between God's intentions (with respect to trials) and Satan's? How should we respond to *testing*? To *temptation*?

Read & discuss 1 Corinthians 10:13.

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What's the desired (optimal) end-result of a God-ordained trial? What does this mean in practical terms?

As a group, discuss the difference between God's *permissive will* and His *perfect will*, and how He remains *sovereign* in both.

How does asking God for wisdom (vss. 5-6) relate to trials? What are some ways that God's wisdom can help us in times of trial?

What does it mean to be a double-minded person? In what way do trials cause some people to be double-minded? Discuss

What does the Apostle Paul say about Abraham in Romans 4:18-22? What parts of this passage offer hope for us that God can use & work in people who are "*less than perfect*"?

What does Paul say about his own life in 2 Timothy 1:12? What does he mean? What parts of this speak to you?

Application

Take your favorite implication/application from the sermon this week and personalize it. What are some specific ways that you can make this truth real in your life this week? Is there someone who can hold you accountable and encourage you in this?

Prayer

Spend some time in prayer thanking God for His Word and what you've learned.

What are some of the prayer needs of your group, your family, your friends?

