

# Group Questions- Working Faith: Week 2

06/18/2023 – Pastor Kirby

## *Getting to Know Me Questions:*

- What bucket list item do you want to check off the most?
- What is something you practiced/worked really hard to improve on (sport, skill, competition, hobby)? Was the result what you were hoping for? Do you still pursue it?

## *Into the Bible Questions:*

- Follow Up:
  - What open door in our communities did you see? How will you help?
  - Did you listen to the song from last week? What are your thoughts?
- What's something from this week's teaching that you learned, that stood out, interesting etc?
- **READ:** James 1:1-8
- 4 Things James Teaches Us About Troubles (James 1:1-2): They're Inevitable; Variable; Unpredictable; Purposeful. Out of the 4 which one is the most difficult to accept/understand? Why?
- 3 Purposes to Troubles (James 1:3-4): Test my faith; Develop my endurance; Mature my character. What does a "Working Faith" look like in each of these three areas?
- James gives us 4 ways to respond to difficulties (James 1:2-12): Rejoice knowing God will use them; Ask for wisdom; Trust; Remember God's promises.
- Pastor Kirby said "When you're in a difficult time, joy is a choice." What does that look like for you? It possible to simply "choose" joy? What are the challenges of that?
- **READ:** Psalm 116:7
- Take a moment to meditate on this verse. What are the images/feelings/thoughts that you experience as you reflect on this verse? In what ways, if any, do you let your "soul rest"?
- Pastor Kirby gave us 2

## *Application Questions:*

- Pastor Kirby gave us 2 Questions to reflect on. How will you answer them? What are the challenges in doing so?
  - Will you turn to God for help
  - Will you let God teach you some things and learn from it?

James 1:1

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:  
Greetings.

James 1:2-8

<sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, <sup>a</sup> whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. <sup>6</sup> But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. <sup>8</sup> Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

#### **4 Things James Teaches Us About Troubles:**

##### **1. Troubles are Inevitable.**

James 1:2

...**WHENEVER** you face trials of many kinds...

##### **2. Troubles are Variable.**

James 1:2

...whenever you face trials of **MANY KINDS...**

“A weed is a plant growing where it is not wanted.”

##### **3. Troubles are Unpredictable**

James 1:2

...**WHENEVER** you face trials of **MANY KINDS...**

“I’ll gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today!” – Wimpy

“You face” or “You encounter”: “Fall into something that’s all around us.”

##### **4. Troubles are purposeful.**

James 1:3

<sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

What do we know? “Troubles produce perseverance in our faith.”

#### **Purposes of Troubles**

##### **1. Troubles test my faith**

James 1:3

<sup>3</sup> because you know that the **TESTING** of your faith produces perseverance.

2. Troubles Develop My Endurance

James 1:3

because you know that the testing of your faith produces **PERSEVERANCE**.

3. Troubles **mature** my character.

James 1:4

<sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

**4 Ways to respond to difficulties**

1) Rejoice knowing God can use the problem

Genesis 50:20

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

James 1:2

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

Romans 8:28

<sup>28</sup> And we know that in **all things** God works for the good of those who love him

When you're in a difficult time, joy is a choice

Psalms 34:1

**I will** extol the Lord at all times;  
his praise will always be on my lips.

2) Ask for Wisdom

James 1:5

<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

3) Trust

James 1:6

But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt

Psalms 116:7

<sup>7</sup> Return to your rest, my soul,  
for the Lord has been good to you.

#### 4) Remember God's promises

James 1:12

<sup>12</sup>Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

#### 2 Questions:

- Will you turn to God for help
- Will you let God teach you some things and learn from it?