

JAMES

WORD TO THE WISE

Message Study Guide



PRAY READ EXPLORE: James 1:1-18

Message Notes:



1 Pray, then read and explore the passage. Any notable observations or questions?

2 According to **James 1:2-4, 12** what is the central theme of this passage and how does this theme weave its way through **James 1:2-18**?

Why should we be joyful about experiencing trials?

According to Paul David Tripp, sanctification is an ongoing, lifelong process of being made into what God declared us to be in Christ.¹ Discuss the process of sanctification in the life of a believer. How do trials contribute to your growth? Note the upside of walking wisely through trials (**James 1:2-4**) and the downside of walking unwisely through trials (**James 1:12-15**).

Share a story of how a trial resulted in helping you develop an enduring and maturing faith.

3 The phrase "let..." in **James 1:5, 9, 13** appears to introduce three unique ideas that are related to the main theme. What warnings and encouragements are offered for each section below? (See also **1 Peter 1:6-9**)

- **James 1:5-8**
- **James 1:9-11 (see also Matthew 5:19-24; 6:24; Luke 12:13-21; 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19)**
- **James 1:12-15**

James 1:2 states that trials will come (when, not if) and then calls the church to consider suffering from the vantage point of confidence in God's sovereignty. How does James advise we approach God, who gives generously for the wisdom needed to mature in Christ while we walk through various trials?

How does God give us wisdom? In what ways has God been generous with you or others you know when providing wisdom during trials? When the timing is appropriate to speak to someone enduring hardship, what warnings and encouragement might we share from the verses above?

4 Is there a difference between trials, testing, and temptations? (**James 1:2, 12-15**) How do they relate to the purposes of God and human desire?

5 In what ways is God's goodness and blessing displayed in **James 1:2-18**, even in the midst of trials and struggles? When we experience trials, how might we be deceived about our beliefs about God and our standing before God (**James 1:16-18**)?

¹ Paul David Tripp. *Do you Believe: 12 Historic Doctrines to Change Your Everyday Life* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2021), 344-345.