

Congratulations on your Trial

James 1:1-8

- I. Trials are necessary to produce the mature faith we long for (James 1:1-4).
 - A. Joy: We should regard trials like we think of joyful events because of their positive potential (1:2)!
 - We must change our attitude to anticipate the beneficial effect of our trials.
 - B. Perseverance: Trials can purge our faith so that we can spiritually persevere and mature (1:3-4).
 - Trials can purge out what is phony in our faith and develop the genuine part into true perseverance (1 Peter 1:6-7).
 - Our trial may not be meant for solving, but for persevering.
 - Trials forcefully give us time to focus on areas where God wants to mature us.
- II. As trials come, we can ask for spiritual wisdom to gain the maturity God intends (James 1:5-8).
 - A. In trials we must ask God for wisdom to benefit the way He intends for us (1:5)
 - Have we asked God only for solutions or for wisdom to mature spiritually through our trials?
 - God is totally generous about giving us spiritual insight.
 - B. When praying during trials, we must believe God will really teach us (1:6a)
 - C. As long as we doubt or resist what God is teaching us in trials, we will live in chaos and instability (1:6b-8).