

Faith that Perseveres - James 1:9-18 **Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

Notes from the Sermon

Written by our guest speaker - Ramon Rivera

The book of James is a rich work by the half-brother of Jesus that calls for a faith that is visible. In this text, we have a pastor speaking to fellow brothers and sisters on the responsibility of living out their beliefs in the face of many obstacles. The audience of this letter is Jewish Christians that have put their faith in Jesus Christ and faced much persecution because of it. Believers at this time faced difficulties such as grief, social-economic loss, and injustice. In the face of these trials, there had to be decisions made on how will the believer live.

One of the most iconic passages of Scripture that teach about trials is found in James 1:2 "Count it all joy, my brothers,[b] when you meet trials of various kinds,". The text implies a couple of things 1. We need to have the right thinking in the trials we go through. 2nd, Just because we are Christians does not mean that we are exempt from trials, and 3. the range of trials varies for everyone, whether the type, length of time, or number of trials can be different for everyone.

The right think in trials has the ability to make the trial feel like an exercise machine that is building the muscles of our faith but wrong thinking can make trials feel as though God is picking on us and dare we say doesn't even care for us. Feeling and thinking is deeply co-dependent but the question becomes, which one is leading the way? When feelings lead the way we can find ourselves believing lies of God's truth but when right thinking is leading the way our feeling make sense and even give them purpose. This opening in verse two is showing us that our thinking of trials should be that trials have some level of good about them. We recall Paul in Romans 8:28 that tells us that God will use everything for our good even if it's something not good in itself.

Another important thought about trials is that it was never a part of God's plan that we would experience pain and difficulties that we do. It's when our first parents chose their evil desires over God's good provision, trials were one of the many consequences of sin being birthed. Suffering in creation breaks the heart of God and calls on the loving-kindness of God to provide redemption. God in love has become what was required to put to death suffering, having the joy of hope in the trials that we face because they will not win.

Another observation of this passage is that our faith does not exempt the believer from trials. Our savior himself faced trials that brought pain and difficulty to him. If anyone who would have the privilege of not having to face trials would be the family of Jesus but not even they are exempt. The reason for the believer to experience trials is to build in them Godly character (James 1:3-4) and the faith of the believer will be certain (1Pet. 1:6-7). The privilege of the Gospel is not the absence of trials but the grace and guarantee of the believer. God provides the believer with the strength to persevere and the promise of a future without sin and suffering.

Its important to know that trials for everyone will look different which means what may be required from the believer may look different. Trials can take something away for some while others require a refraining from freedoms for others. No matter the trail what is required from everyone is a wisdom on how to live in light of difficulties, that does not come from the world but from God. This Godly wisdom is the knowledge and ability to live obediently to God in the face of difficulty. James gives good news in 1:5 that for us who may lack that wisdom should ask God for this wisdom in which He gives generously. God does not want His children fending for themselves in difficulty but that we would run to Him

who is sufficient to provide all that we need in our suffering.

A major theme we can trace throughout this letter is the humility of the believer and the rejection of pride, James 4:6. The Christian can not think that they can live faithfully to God without Him, the way that is pleasing to the world is contrary to the way of God especially in the face of trials. Humility is having the right view of ourselves in view of God, His way is higher and greater than we can provide ourselves. When we face trials of various kinds it will take our humility to come to God and ask for his strength and ability to live obediently to Him because without Him we don't have the wherewithal to do so.

So believer, you are not alone in your trials. You don't need to have a way through but by humbling yourself God will see you through. If you are facing trials may I remind you that God is working His plan of sanctification (the daily process of looking more like Jesus and less like the world) out in your life. Lastly, this trial does not win and that is guaranteed by the creator of the universe!

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Joshua 9	Joshua 10	Joshua 11	Joshua 12	Joshua 13	Joshua 14	Joshua 15

Reading from this past week: James 1:9-18

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Matthew 5:2-16

Family Worship

Song - *God the Uncreated One*

<https://youtu.be/rswH9CSyWHk>

Gospel Project

Unit: The Miracles of Jesus

Story: Jesus miracles prove He is God

Big Picture Question: Is Jesus God or human?

Answer: As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

Scripture: John 14

New City Catechism

Question #27: Are all people, just as they were lost through Adam, saved through Christ?

Answer: No, only those who are elected by God and united to Christ by faith.

Verse: Romans 5:17

Scripture

James 1:9-18

- What are some things that you can see today that are trials in your life?
- What has been the way you have commonly handled trials and why?
- What are some lies that you might hear while you face your trials?
- How does the Gospel give hope to your specific trials?

Prayer

*Pray that we would have an enduring, persevering faith in Jesus.

*Pray for the mission of God advanced through the planting of new churches. And pray for our two church planting networks, the Send Network of Great Commission Baptists and the Acts 29 Church Planting Network.