

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?

Quotes to Ponder

The difficulties of life are intended by God to refine our faith: heating it in the crucible of suffering so that impurities might be refined away and so that it might become pure and valuable before the Lord.

Douglas Moo

James feared that his people ... would imagine that an affirmation of orthodox theology and membership in a community of faith was enough to please God. He feared complacency more than persecution. He feared that people would be strong in knowledge but weak in life.

Daniel M. Doriani

Rather than suffering being connected to the bad things we have done, Scripture connects trials and difficulty to the good things God wants for us and is working to produce in us.

Suffering doesn't so much change your heart as expose what has been in your heart all along.

Your suffering will be all the more painful if you question the presence, promises, goodness, or faithfulness of God.

If life were about us and controlled by us, we would see to it that we never suffer. The crisis of faith that often accompanies suffering is the result of a collision between our will and God's will and our glory and his glory. In our selfishness we can't see suffering of any kind as good, so we begin to question whether God, who has allowed it into our lives, is good.

Paul David Tripp

One Son God hath without sin, but none without sorrow.

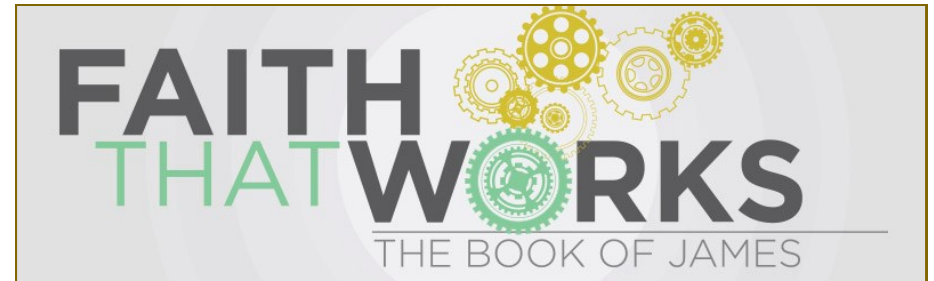
John Trapp

God, the Master Painter, works in the entire spectrum of problems through which you pass in life. He is busy making you into a new person by the fiery reds of affliction, the icy blues of sorrow, the murky browns of failure, and the sickly yellows of illness and disease. God is at work; on His palettes is every hue and intensity of the rainbow.

Jay Adams

The passion of Christianity comes from deliberately signing away my own rights and becoming a bondservant of Jesus Christ. Until I do that, I will not begin to be a saint.

Oswald Chambers



#3 Consider It All Joy (1:2-4)

Sermon
Notes

January 20, 2019

1. The Position

2. The Command

3. The Promise

4. The Result

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1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Convinced you? Challenged you? Confused you?

2. How do we naturally respond to trials? How does God command us to respond to trials (*James 1:2*)? Is it possible to do this? Why?

3. Are we supposed to deny our feelings when we *consider it all joy* in times of trial (*James 1:2*)? How does this work in practice?

4. Is it a sin to feel sorrow and grief in times of trials? Explain.

5. How do the following Scriptures encourage us to respond to trials?

Acts 5:40-41 —

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 —

Romans 5:3-5 —

Hebrews 12:2-3 —

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 —

1 Peter 1:6-7 —

2 Corinthians 7:9-10 —

1 Peter 4:12-13 —

Why can we react to trials with the strange response of joy?

6. Why should we not expect to be free from trials according to (*John 15:18-20*)?

7. What might be the single most important word in what James says

about trials in *James 1:2*? Why? In other words, what kinds of trials should we respond to with joy?

8. Why does God allow increasingly greater trials in our lives?

9. What is God's goal for us as Christians (*James 1:3-4*)?

10. Can you think of some biblical examples of this process James gives us (*James 1:2-4*)?

11. Besides trials, what else does God use to perfect us (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*)?

12. According to the following verses, what purposes does God have in our trials?

Exodus 16:4 —

2 Corinthians 1:3-6 —

Luke 22:31-32 —

2 Corinthians 12:7 —

John 6:5-7 —

2 Corinthians 12:10 —

Romans 8:18-25 —

Reflection Questions: When I face trials, what resources do I turn to? Why? When I'm in a trial do I find myself more dependent on God or less? Am I currently passing my test of trials? Are they causing me to consider what God is doing in my life? What has God taught me? In my trials, am I able to say, *Not My will, but Yours* (*Luke 22:42*)?