

## ***Doing Church Right***

- **Day One – Read James 1:2-4; Romans 5:3-4; 8:28.**

Think back in your life. Has there ever been a time when God brought you through a tough time and worked something good in you or for you? God really can bring great good out of difficult and seemingly hopeless situations. How have you changed for the better because of that difficult situation? How have you become stronger?

**Pray** and thank God for his faithfulness to you during that difficult time. Praise him for his faithfulness!

- **Day Two – Read James 1:14-15.** Sin is a process during which time we're "dragged away" from a place of trust in God. It all started back in the garden, when our original parents began to wonder if God's words were true and his promises were reliable. It takes a while for the evil desire to become a commitment to act. At what point in the "sin process" do we need to seek God for his help to overcome temptation?

**Pray** and thank God that he loves you when you are strong and live in obedience, and he loves you when you are weak and fall into sin. But in the areas of your greatest vulnerability, ask him to help you overcome! Get a close, trusted prayer partner to help you overcome temptation.

- **Day Three – Read James 1:12; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.** We don't know for sure what the "crown of life" is, but we know that God's rewards are never a disappointment! What is the trial or temptation in your life right now that's requiring your perseverance? Are you facing it alone? Who might be your other two in your "three chorded strand?"

**Pray** and ask God to give you strength to persevere! And, seek the prayer support of a trusted Christian friend.

New Life Lessons  
May 21st & 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016  
Pastor Ron Salisbury

## ***"The Testing of Our Faith"***

*James – Doing Church Right #1*

James 1:1-18

## ***Understanding the Letter of James***

***Written by Whom?***

***To Whom?***

***When?***

***Why?***

**James 1:1-18** <sup>1</sup> James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.

<sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

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

<sup>6</sup> But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

<sup>9</sup> The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position <sup>10</sup> But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower.

<sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

<sup>13</sup> When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

<sup>14</sup> but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. <sup>15</sup> Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

<sup>16</sup> Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. <sup>17</sup> Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

<sup>18</sup> He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

### ***Is Our Personal Faith Real?***

James makes a powerful argument that real faith should be evident in our life and demonstrated by our actions. James' famous saying, "*Faith Without Works is Dead*" helps us understand that real faith is not just about thinking the right things, but doing the right things!

Each chapter unpacks this powerful truth about *REAL FAITH*.

### ***Our Faith Should Be Seen in:***

- ***How We Face Trials & Temptations...***  
(Chapter One).
- ***The Way We Treat People.***  
(Chapter Two)
- ***What We Say.***  
(Chapter Three)
- ***How We Deal with Sin in Our Lives.***  
(Chapter Four)
- ***Our Prayer Life.***  
(Chapter Five)

## ***The Purpose of Trials & Temptations***

### ***1. Our Faith is Tested in Our Trials.***

*Do we really trust God's wisdom and power?*

**James 1:2-4** (NIV) <sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. Romans 5:3-4; Romans 8:28; Isaiah 26:3; 43:2-3; 45:3; Job 13:14-15; 42:5-6

### ***2. Our Faith is Tested in Our Temptations.***

*Do we really trust God's love and faithfulness?*

**James 1:14-15** (NIV) But each one is tempted when, by his own **evil desire**, he is dragged away and **enticed**. <sup>15</sup> Then, after **desire has conceived**, it gives birth to **sin**; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to **death**.

***"Sin always takes you farther than you want to go, and keeps you longer than you want to stay, and costs you more than you want to pay."***

**John 10:10** "I have come that you might have life, and have life to the full!" 1 Corinthians 10:13; John 8:12, 31-32