

## **“Trials2”** James 1:1-12

It's not what happens TO YOU (circumstances) but what happens IN YOU (character) that either makes you bitter or better in life. It's why you can have two people going through a similar set of difficult circumstances and one becomes bitter and the other becomes better.

### **What is True About Trials (Perspective)?**

- Trials can be met with authentic joy. (v2)
- Trials are inevitable, unpredictable, and multidimensional. (V2)  
John 16:33
- Trials test my faith. (V3) 1Pet1:6-7
- Trials will produce holiness (character) and happiness (contentment) in Christ if I don't give up (steadfastness). (Vv3-4)  
1Pet 4:12-13

### **What Resources Do We Have for Trials (Power)?**

#### **The Gospel gives us...**

- Wisdom (Vv5-8)  
Matt7:24-27
- Wealth (Vv9-11)  
Luke 12:15 And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

### • Wholeness (V12)

“Crown of life” = the crown which is life (MacArthur Commentary) or to crown that man with life (ESV Gospel Transformation Bible).

V4b perfect, complete, lacking in nothing.

Wholeness is not only the product of trials but gives us greater capacity to face trials!

### Daniel 3:16-18 Fiery Furnace

Because Jesus went through your greatest fiery furnace for you (The Cross), He'll certainly be in your smaller furnaces with you never to leave you or forsake you (Heb12:2, 13:5-6).

### Growing Notes

- 1) The Book of James is showing us what it means to be like Jesus (Faith That Works). Why is it important to not be preoccupied with being like Jesus but being with Jesus (John 15:5)? Why do you think you can have two people going through similar difficult circumstances and one becomes bitter and one becomes better?
- 2) Read James 1:1-12. What attitude did James tell people to exhibit when they are facing trials (v2)? What is produced when our faith is tested (vv3-4)? What is God's response when we ask for wisdom to help us in our trials (v5)? What will eventually happen to the wealth of a rich person (vv10-11)? What reward awaits the person who perseveres under trial (v12)?
- 3) Review the four points under What is True About Trials (Perspective)? Which one(s) are most helpful for you? It's not the events of life but our evaluation (perspective) of those events that determine how we feel and respond to those events. Explain. How important is a Biblical perspective when it comes to trials?
- 4) Review the three points under What Resources Do We Have for Trials (Power)? How do divided loyalties hinder our persevering in trials (vv6, 8)? How does the wealth of the Gospel help us in trials? Why do you think wholeness (holiness/happiness in Christ) is not only the product of trials but also the power to face trials? What is the most important thing God is speaking to you from this Bible study? Pray.