*Series, Community – A Place to Belong*

Enduring Together in Community

September 14, 2025

James 1:1-18

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:

What gives meaning to the content is its **C** .

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

9 Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. 10 But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. 11 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 will fade away even while they go about their business.

12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. 16 Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.

17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

Theme & Goal:
When you face **T** , **P**  by **F**  your eyes on Jesus.

1. You **W**  face trials in your life.

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Trials will either **P**  you **A**  from God or **B**  you **C**  to Him.

17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

* “Pain is a gift that no one wants.” – Philip Yancey
1. Persevere as you gain **W** .

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

* dokimion: Testing, trial, proving
* When your faith is tested, tried and proved, it will produce perseverance.

1 Peter 1:7

7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

* Double-mindedness describes the internal division that renders a person spiritually unstable, hesitant, and ineffective in faith and practice. The expression appears twice in the Epistle of James to warn believers against wavering between devotion to God and allegiance to competing desires.

Q: How are you double-minded? How are you wavering between devotion to God and competing desires?

1. **F**  your eyes on Jesus.

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17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

APPLICATION

Find a **C**  – a place where you **B** .

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

9 Two are better than one,

 because they have a good return for their labor:

10 If either of them falls down,

 one can help the other up.

But pity anyone who falls

 and has no one to help them up.

How is the Holy Spirit

* Comforting you?
* Convicting you?
* Challenging you?