

Week 1: Testing & Persevering

Sermon Series: James: Faith & Works

Key Verses: James 1:2–12; 2 Timothy 3:12

Speaker: Dr. Justin Hardcastle

Big Idea: The testing of our faith through trials produces perseverance, and perseverance helps form a steady, mature, enduring faith in Christ.

Most of us love the idea of strong faith, but here is the hard truth: strong faith is not usually formed in easy seasons. Strong faith is often formed in pressure. James is writing to believers who understood hardship.

Trials Are Not A Possibility; They Are A _____

- **Read:** James 1:2–4. James says, “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds.” Trials are part of life in a broken world, and they are part of the journey of following Jesus.
- **Read:** 2 Timothy 3:12. Paul reminds us that everyone who desires to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will face opposition. James says trials come in “various kinds.” That means they come in many forms.
- We can have joy because we know God can produce something in us through what we are walking through.

Testing Produces _____

- **Read:** James 1:3–4. James says the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. That word means endurance, perseverance, staying power.
- **Read:** Romans 5:3–5. Paul says suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

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God Gives What We Need In The _____

- **Read:** James 1:5–8. James tells us that if we lack wisdom, we should ask God. James says God gives generously, and that means when you are in the middle of a trial, you do not have to figure it all out by yourself. James also reminds us to ask in faith. Then James reminds us to stay humble.
- **Read:** James 1:9–11. Trials have a way of reminding all of us that we need God.

There Is A Promise For Those Who _____

- **Read:** James 1:12. James says when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life.
- For the believer, suffering is temporary, but the promise of God is eternal.
- **Read:** Hebrews 12:1–2. We run with endurance by looking to Jesus, and because He endured, we can endure.

What Is God Speaking to me today?:

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