

# Faith, Trials & Perseverance

Wednesday Gathering; Weeks of Sunday, June 28 and Sunday, July 5; Steve Thiel & Tyler Clark

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**Sermon Series Theme:** True faith in Christ works itself out in every area of life, even in midst of trials, persevering in actions, attitudes, speech and relationships, causing believers to not only hear the Word, but practice the Word, for their good and God's eternal glory!

## **I. Faith and Trials – Read James 1:1-12**

- A. What is the significance of James' self-designation as "a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ"? As you think about your own life, where do you tend to find your own identity?
- B. As we think about the overall structure, how do verses 2-4 and verse 12 serve as bookends and help us interpret verses 5-7 and vv. 9-11 in light of the need to persevere in trials?
- C. When are you most tempted to doubt the character of God? How do verses 5-7 encourage you to run to God in prayer rather than to the world (James 4:4) or to other things? How is Matthew 7:7-11 helpful as you think about the goodness of God to offer us His wisdom?
- D. Contrast the pursuits of the rich with the final reward of those who stand the test (vv. 9-12)? As you think about your life, what do your current pursuits tell you about your desires?

## **II. Faith and Perseverance – Read James 1:12-18**

- A. As you read verse 12 and think about life as a series of trials, how do verses like James 1:12, 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, and Romans 8:18 help you to persevere in the midst of trials?
- B. Trials are often accompanied by temptations to doubt the character of God (vv. 13-15). Where are you most tempted to doubt God in the midst of your trials? How can you keep perspective on the perfect character of God (v. 17) in the midst of your trials and temptations?
- C. Read Genesis 3:1-7. How do you see the progression of sin played out in these verses? As you think about your own heart, what are the desires that lure you away from obeying God (think more in terms of the desires behind the sin than the outward manifestations of the sin)?
- D. Do you tend to think of trials as "good and perfect gifts" (v. 17)? In light of verses 2-4, how are trials a gift from God? How does knowing this help you persevere in the midst of trials?
- E. How does verse 18 encourage you that God gives "perfect gifts" for your own growth in the faith? How can you practically recall God's faithfulness in your life and the life of others that enables you to sing the sweeter song of the gospel throughout the different trials of your life?