

## Fresh Surrender - Week 3

### Faith Perseveres

James 1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 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. 6 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. 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. 9 The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. 10 But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he 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 man will fade away even while he goes about his business. 12 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.

- Even the world often notices the marked differences between **genuine** Christians and those who merely profess faith in Christ.
- How you handle the hard times will prove if your **faith** is the real deal-- if it is living or dead, is genuine or imitation, is saving or non-saving.
- Trials are never out of God's **control**.
- My failures give me an opportunity to, next time, learn and **succeed**.
- James says "consider it a joy". This means a **pure** joy, not a fake joy as we saw in past weeks.
- "Consider it a joy" is a **command**, an imperative.

What do trials produce?

1. We learn to grow in His **likeness**.  
We must let our faith--our responses to trials-- teach us **endurance**.
2. Trials help us to spiritually **mature**.
  - We learn **patience**. In scripture, patience is not a **passive** acceptance of circumstances.
  - **Immature** people are always impatient; mature people are patient and persistent. OOPS!
  - Patience and endurance comes by and through the **experience** of trials and how we learn and handle them.
  - This takes a radically God-centered **perspective** on life. It takes a faith that can go beyond the trials.
  - Ok, get this: you cannot grow out of the **carnal** life into the spiritual life.

3. We learn to trust in God's **wisdom.**
  - One man said wisdom is “knowledge using its head.”
  - We should ask in faith, not **doubting.**
  - Our wisdom goes through three different filters, and our limitations in all three of these lead to **limited** wisdom. So what are they?
    - **Knowledge**
    - **Perspective**
    - **Experience**
4. We learn to rely on God's **resources.**  
Trials make both rich and poor **dependent** on the God of all grace.
5. We learn to know God with an **understanding** mind.
  - Faith is always **tested.** God's test is designed to bring out the best in us. Satan desires to bring out the worst.
  - **Testing** works for us, not against us. Testing will, in time, show us the **approval** of God when we respond right.
  - Responding to trials in a right way will help us to grow and **mature.**

Final Thoughts:

- God cannot build the character in our lives without a **surrendered will.**
- God must work **in us** before He can work through us.
- God must **wean** us from the fleshly life before we can understand the spiritual life.

James uses three key words in Chapter 1:

**Count:** consider it all joy

**Know:** gain an understanding heart

**Let:** Allow God to bring us to a surrendered heart and life