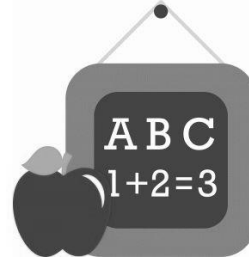


Back to Basics

*Pursuing Life-Change in
James*

Pastor Toby Locke • 10/13/2024



Responding To Trials

James 1:2-5

How God Wants Us To Respond:

- Choose to see trials as _____ for
_____. (1:2-3a)

But why?

- ➔ We KNOW it will produce _____ in us. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

- _____ to the testing _____ at work. (1:3b-4)

But why?

- ➔ We KNOW it will complete our _____.

- _____ on Him during the trial. (1:5, Heb. 4:15-16)

But why?

- ➔ We KNOW that God is _____ and _____.

FIRST BAPTIST HORSEHEADS
LIFE GROUPS 

Debrief Plan: 10/13/2024

Icebreakers:

1. Would you rather have a rewind button for your life or a fast-forward button?
2. If you could have any exotic animal as a pet, which one would you choose?

Sermon Summary: James tells us that our trials are opportunities for joy and that if we embrace the testing process, God will make us spiritually strong and complete our transformation. Along the way, He wants us to depend on Him and ask Him for help because we are confident that God is good and has good intentions towards us.

1. Pastor Toby illustrated the command "count it all joy" from James 1:2 by pointing to how pregnant mothers look forward to and anticipate the delivery of their baby even though the actual delivery process is itself painful and difficult. Can you think of other examples from everyday life where we do similar mental calculations?
2. Think about someone you love who is far from God. How would it change your perspective on a trial you were facing if you KNEW 100% that at the end of that trial, that person you love who is far from God would turn to Jesus and accept Him? Would it affect your experience of the difficult trial? If so, why?
3. Imagine that the two or three people you depend on the most in life possessed the character quality of "steadfastness" that James 1 describes. How would that positively affect your life? How would you feel about those people? Why do you suppose that we do our best to avoid the tests and trials that will develop that same positive trait in ourselves?
4. What will it require of us to submit to the testing process?
5. We talk a lot about wanting to change various bad habits or choices. How can you tell that someone is serious about being transformed?
6. What would God's enemies want you to do whenever you "lack wisdom" (as verse 5 suggests you will from time to time)? How does prayer help us when we feel vulnerable and weak?