

DERAILED: Am I Persevering?

ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

1. What is your favorite hobby? Why?
2. What is one thing you are looking forward to this week?

WORD

Whether you are a long-time follower or just started at your faith in following Jesus, the Book of James is a perfect Book to ponder. Why? It is practical but yet powerful words of truth.

What are the things that the enemy will strike when he does his dirty work? The enemy will strike our work, our source of income, our properties, our loved ones and our health

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

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.

The word *count* is a financial term, and it means “to evaluate.” When James says to “count it all joy,” he encourages his readers to evaluate the way we look at trials.

He calls believers to develop a new and improved attitude that considers trials from God’s perspective.

DISCUSSION

How do you handle testing, trials and difficulties?

WORD

James wants believers to expect “trials of various kinds” ([James 1:2](#)) in the Christian life. We should be prepared and not caught off guard when a sudden trial comes upon us. Trials are part of the Christian experience. Jesus told His disciples, “In this world you will have trouble” ([John 16:33](#)). But take heart, He already overcome the world.

Typically, a trial is not an occasion for joy. James isn’t suggesting that we pursue trials or court hardship; neither are we to pretend that trials are enjoyable to endure. Trials are difficult and painful. But they exist for a purpose. Trials have the potential of producing something good in us *It develop our character*, and, for this reason, they are an opportunity for expressing joy. Knowing there is a bigger picture, we can consider trials as things to rejoice in. Even though joy is contrary to our normal reaction, James urges us to work on changing our attitude toward troubles from dread to positive expectation, faith, trust, and even joy.

Philippians 2:14-15 (NLT)

14 Do everything without complaining and arguing, 15 so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.

DISCUSSION

Have you experienced trial, testing or difficulties? If yes, what was it and how did you live with it?

LIFE APPLICATION

We experience pure joy when we have the ..

- Right Attitude (James 1:2)
- Right Fruit (James 1:2, Galatians 5:22-23)
- Right Worship (Job 1:20-22)
- Right Outcome (Job 42:10)

VERSE TO MEDITATE ON

James 1:12 (NIV)

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

PRAYER

Share your prayer request and answered prayer. Pray for one another and throughout this week.

All rights reserved. This material may be copied for personal use, but may not be republished, modified, or sold in any manner without written consent of Every Nation Church East Calgary.



