September 20, 2026 **Pastor Andy McClellan**
Series Title: James
Sermon Title: Three Cheers for Trials!
Text: James 1:2-8

God uses trials in our lives…

1. To bring us the **JOY** of becoming complete in Him, vv. 1-4 *(see also Matthew 5:11-12, 48; Romans 5:3-4, 8:29, 12:2; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 4:13-15, 22-24; Hebrews 3:8, 12:1-3; 1 Peter 1:6-7; 2 Peter 1:3).*

2. To bring us to seek **WISDOM** from Him, v. 5 *(see also 3:17; 1 Kings 3:9-12; Proverbs 2:1-7, 9:10; Daniel 2:20-22; Matt. 7:7-8; Luke 11:9-13; Colossians 1:9-10*).

3. To bring us to single-minded **FAITH** in Him, vv. 6-8 *(see also Matthew 21:21-22; Mark 9:24; Rom. 4:20-21; Heb. 10:23, 35-39, 11:1-6; Revelation 3:15-16).*

FOR FURTHER STUDY & DISCUSSION

1. What are some difficult things in life that we willingly endure because we know what they will eventually produce? According to James in 1:2-4, how is it possible to have joy in trials? What must we value more than our comfort to have that joy? What must we believe about God and His plan for us? How did Jesus model this for us (see Heb. 12:1-3)? How do trials test and reveal how we're growing to become more like Jesus?
2. James says that the desired effect of trials is that they make us "perfect and complete." What does that mean? Is this verse arguing that we should be expecting to become completely sinless in this life? How do James 3:2 & 1 John 1:7-8 help us understand this, and how does this truth make the Gospel good news for us (see 2 Cor. 5:21; 2 Peter 1:3)?
3. When you're enduring tests and trials, where do you regularly go for wisdom and advice? What are sources of "worldly" wisdom and what are sources of godly wisdom? Why is it harmful for us to seek the wisdom of this world rather than the wisdom of God? How do trials practically reveal to us where we are inclined to seek wisdom? Why is v. 5 such a great promise for us? What trial are you enduring in which you need God's wisdom? Spend some time in prayer asking God for it.
4. What does it mean to be "double-minded" and how is it like being tossed around like a wave in the sea? What are some examples of double-minded thinking? Why is it a problem when we think this way when asking God for wisdom? What does it mean to have single-minded faith? How are your current trials exposing areas where you are struggling to be single-minded in your faith in God? Find someone you trust who can pray for you in this.
5. Have the trials in your life brought you to believe that God has abandoned you and does not care about your struggle? How does James 1:2-8 teach the exact opposite? With that in mind, what do you need to confess to the Lord? What help do you need to ask from Him?

NEXT WEEK: James 1:9-18, Pastor Asa Hart
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