

September 20, 2026



James | Faith That Works - Week 1

“Building Faith Through Trials”

Summary of James: “Just because it gets hard, that doesn’t mean we give up on our faith. We live it out. And here’s how...”

James 1:1-4 (NIV)

“¹ James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. 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.”

- Trials will expose what needs to get out.
- Trials will build things in you that need to grow.
- Trials you go through are NEVER pointless.

2 Corinthians 4:17 (ESV)

“For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.”

- Going through a valley will produce in you more spiritual depth and grit than a mountaintop ever will.

I can fight for joy in trials because:

1. The God who is with me. (Psalm 23:4)

2. The depth & dependance He is building in me. (James 1)

Prayer: “Lord, help me to see You in the midst of this trial. Help me to see what You want to do in me during this trial.”

James 1:5 (NIV)

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

James 1:5 (CSB)

“Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God – who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly – and it will be given to him.”

James 1:6-8 (NIV)

“⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.”

Stop praying for clarity. Start praying for wisdom & courage!

- Clarity would give you the full picture, but God doesn't work that way.
- Wisdom is knowing the next godly thing to do.
- Courage is the boldness to do it even if it's difficult.

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.”

When life heats up, don't give up. Stand strong. Trust in Him.

“If you don't quit, you win. Expect the difficulty, don't panic, and cling to Jesus.” - Matt Chandler