

Sermon Outline

"We Can Face Life Without Fear Because We Understand the Purpose in Our Trials"

James 2:2-8

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Introduction:

God's purpose for us is seen in the process.

I. How Our Trials Are to Be Viewed. v.2.

A. The trial is not a joy.

1 Pet. 1:6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

B. Trials are to be considered a joy.

1. We must make a choice.

2. We must view trials as complete joy.

Rm. 5:2 ... through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.

II. What These Trials Do for Us: They Bring About Our Maturity, v.3-4.

A. Our faith is tested, v.3.

1. Trials show how we are to react.

2. Trials show how we are to trust God.

Phil. 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

B. Perseverance is developed, v.3.

C. Perseverance develops us, v.4.

1. Perseverance has a purpose.

2. Perseverance has results.
 - a. It develops our maturity.

 - b. It makes us complete.

 - c. It keeps us from lacking in any way.

III. How We Work Through These Trials, v.5-8.

A. Go to God for His help, v.5.

1. Ask God for His wisdom.

2. God will give us His wisdom.
 - a. He gives generously!

 - b. He gives to all!

 - c. He gives without finding fault!

B. Put our trust fully in God, v.6-8.

1. Don't be a doubter, v.6-8.
 - a. They are easily influenced.

 - b. They can't count on answers from God, v.7.

 - c. They are double-minded, v.8.

 - d. They are unstable, v.8.

2. Be a person of faith!

Conclusion: Think about the process of how you became a child of God.

Heb.12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.