



## Faith and Trials

James 1:1-12 |

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### RELATED SCRIPTURES

1 Corinthians 9:24-25

### SUMMARY

Today we took some time in prayer to reflect and ask God to help us in our trials. Spend some time reviewing these things and then discuss as a group.

#### **What kinds of trails have you experienced over the past few years, months, weeks?**

*Physical, Emotional, Relational, Professional, Cultural, Social*

**What has been your general reaction to trails?** *In our own "wisdom," we tend to see them a number of different ways - depending on their kind/severity/timing:*

- impediments keeping me from where I want to go
- encumbrances that reduce my quality of life
- accusations of my failures
- verdicts of failures of others
- evidence that God is absent.

#### **Take a minute and do the following:**

- **release** these trials to God - entrusting them to his providential care.
- **confess** your lack of "belief" in His goodness and providence
- **affirm** your desire for Him to train you
- **ask** Him for strength amidst your trials (and release from them too!)
- **rejoice** that one day your trials will end

### GROUP QUESTIONS

- From the sermon, or your direct reading of James 1:1-12, share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you about how God speaks to us?
- How would you describe James' initial instruction to us as God's people? (Give bullet some points). How do his imperatives (consider...let...ask...take pride...) help us put our faith to work?
- What do you suppose it means for Christians to boast/take pride in their "high position" and "humiliation"? How does the gospel both humble and elevate us?
- If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of these portions of Scripture, what is that thing?