**The Study of James: Contend for the Faith**

**Trials that Produce Perfection - James 1:1-8**

**James writes to the Diaspora**

*"James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings."* James 1:1

**Dispersed Jews**: Diaspora, scattered throughout foreign countries. (Jewish Christians)

**Trials that Produce Growth**

*"2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”*  James 1:2-4

**The two sources of trials/temptations**:

1. Man’s desires (James 1:13-15, the trial provides an opportunity for growth.)
2. Satan, (James 4:7-10, the temptation seeks to stumble the believer.)

**The management of trials**:

1. Your first response to trialing should be joy.

Count: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Joy: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Know the purpose of the trial is your growth.

Trials: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Testing: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Your endurance will grow into the perfect life of maturity.

Endure: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Faith is the Key to Subdue a Vacillating Life**

*“5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."* James 1:5-8

1. Wisdom provides the proper perspective of trials.
2. Doubt is described as a wavering indecisiveness, a “vacillating life.”

Double-minded \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What is your initial response to negative experiences in your life?
2. Where do you go first when you’re in trouble?
3. Discuss the concept of trial management, James 1:2-4.
4. Discuss the vacillating life, James 1:5-8.