

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 (ESV)

...Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2 (ESV)

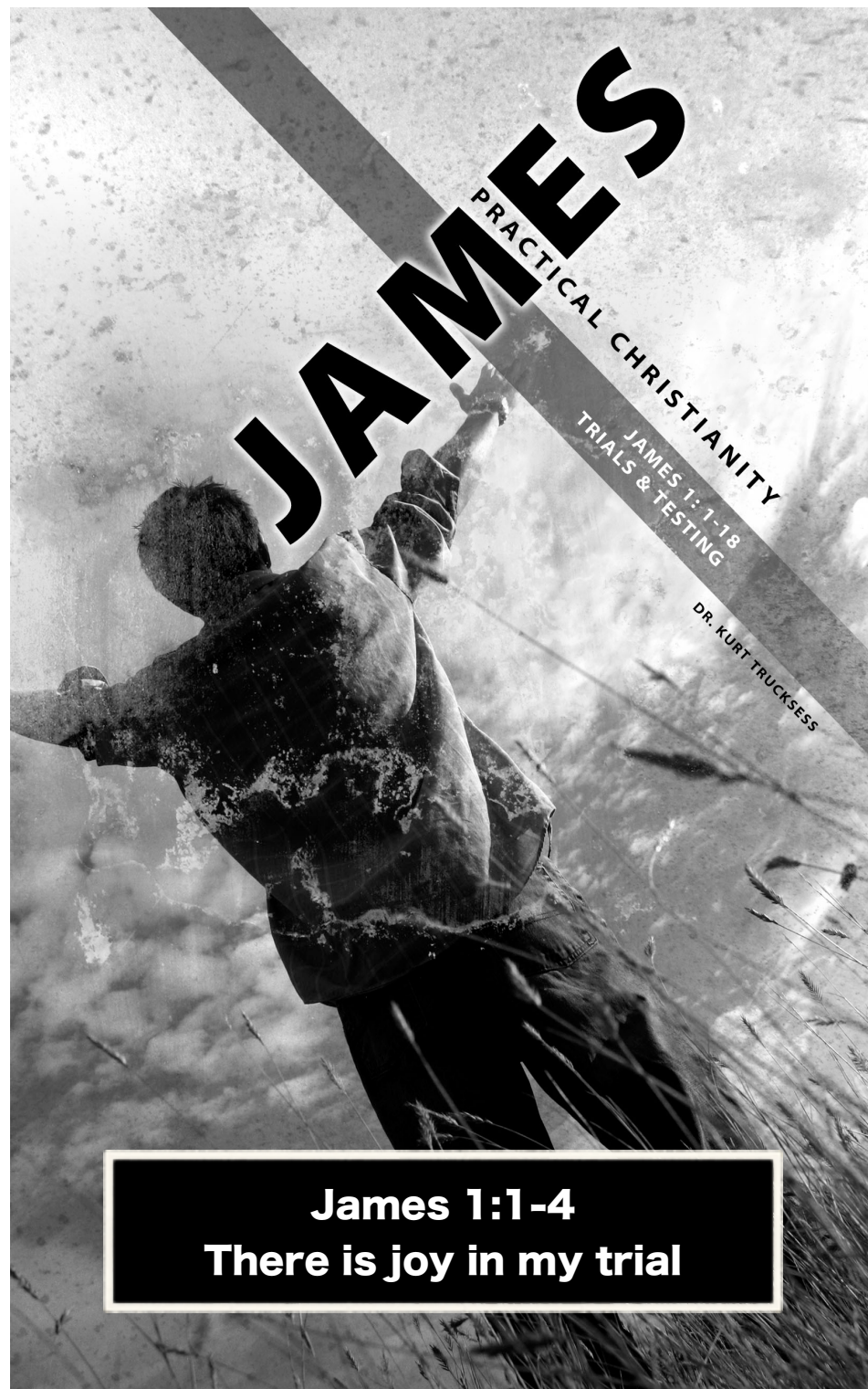
Trials are spiritually good for me

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Next Week: James 1:5-8 - Get Wisdom
Two Weeks: Guest Speaker



James 1:1-4
There is joy in my trial

Faith Evangelical Free Church

March 13, 2011

James 1:2-4 - There is joy in my trial

Background

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ...
James 1:1

- James, the son of Zebedee, brother of the Apostle John (Matthew 4:21)
- James, the son of Alphaeus, also known as James the Younger (Luke 6:15, Mark 15:40)
- James, the father of Judas (Luke 6:16)
- James, the half-brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55)

James “used to enter alone into the temple and be found kneeling and praying for the forgiveness of the people, so that his knees grew hard like a camel’s because of his constant worship of God, kneeling and asking forgiveness for the people. So from his excessive righteousness he was called the Just.” - Eusebius (EH 2:24)

Steadfastness brings about perfection and completeness.

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.
Hebrews 12:11 (ESV)

More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, Romans 5:3 (ESV)

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:6–7 (ESV)

Live with God’s goal in mind.

Our values determine our evaluations. If we value comfort more than character, then trials will upset us. If we value the material and physical more than the spiritual, we will not be able to ‘count it all joy!’ if we live only for the present and forget the future, the trials will make us bitter, not better (Wiersbe)

He could have said...

James, from the sacred womb of Mary, congenital sibling of the Christ. The brother and confidant of the Jesus, the Messiah.”

How can I have joy in a trial?

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, James 1:2 (ESV)

Trials

- These trials are not suffering as a consequence of our choices.

But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. 1 Peter 4:15 (ESV)

- These trials are not suffering when God disciplines us for our sin.

Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word. Psalm 119:67 (ESV)

Hebrews 12:3-17

- James is talking about trials God allows into our life to grow our faith and give him glory.

Various Trials

Count

Trials are the way God makes us mature.

Trials ➡ Testing ➡ Steadfastness ➡ Completeness + Maturity

Trials brings about testing.

for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. James 1:3 (ESV)

Testing brings about steadfastness.

for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. James 1:3 (ESV)