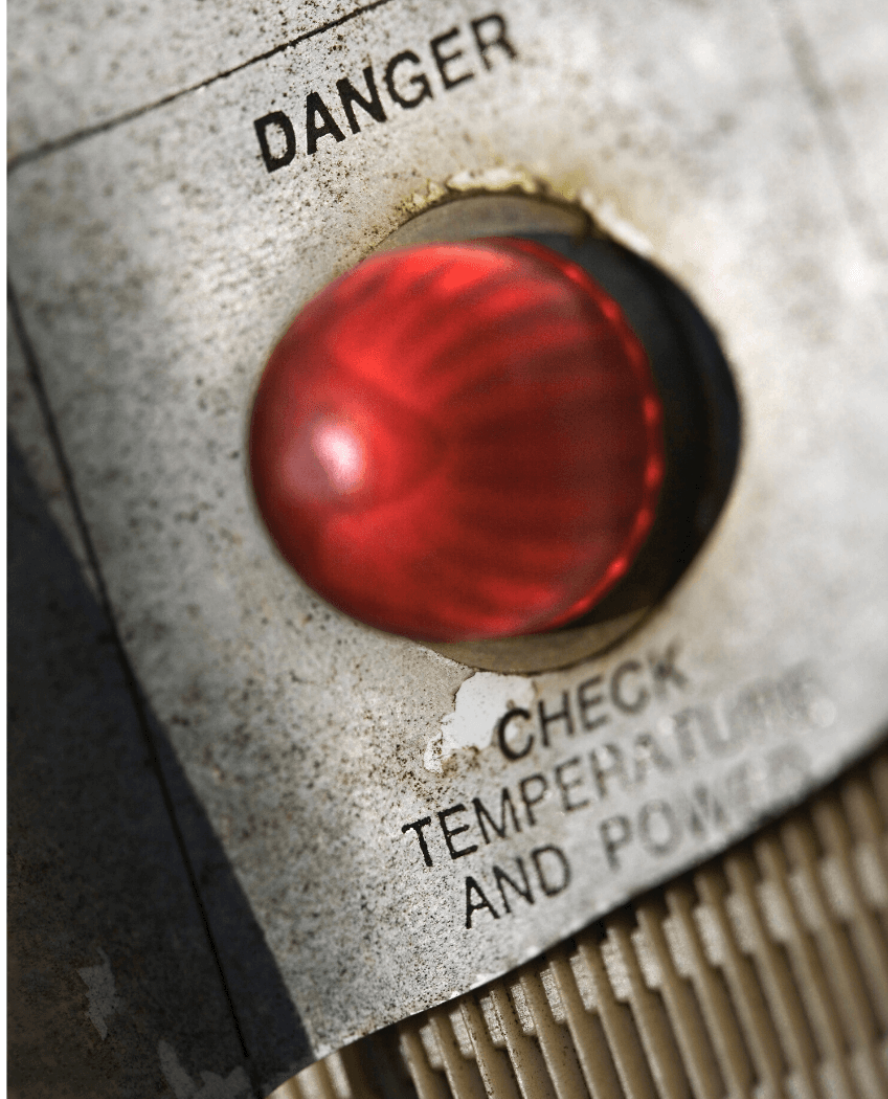


DANGER

CONTENTS UNDER PRESSURE

FAITH UNDER PRESSURE



MARCH 25, 2020

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF JAMES

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1. God gives us a _____ to help us grow: _____

John 17:17 (ESV)

17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

2. God gives us a _____ to help us grow: _____

John 14:26 (ESV)

²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

3. God gives us an safe _____ to grow.

James 1:1 (ESV)

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

4. God gives us a _____ to Grow: _____

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

6. God gives us _____ to grow: _____

James 1:2–4 (ESV)

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.

A Mature Mind

The first step in becoming a mature Christian and growing through all of our trials is changing the way we think and interpret trials.

Philippians 4:6–7 (ESV)

⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2 Chronicles 20:8–9 (ESV)

⁹ ‘If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you—for your name is in this house—and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.’

2 Chronicles 20:12 (ESV)

¹² O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

*Our **problem** is **not** our **problem**,
but our **problem** is how we
think about our problems.*

1. I have to look for _____ in every situation.

James 1:1 (ESV)

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

- a) God will **sovereignly locate** us and **strategically situate** us where we need to be to help us grow and mature.
- b) God will use changes and transition in my live to move me to a greater level of maturity in my walk with God.
- c) God has a purpose and plan for making moves and transitions in my life to position me to be a witness.

2. I have to _____ how I _____ about my trials.

James 1:2 (ESV)

² **Count it all joy, my brothers**, when you meet trials of various kinds,

- a) I must have a biblical perspective of things
- b) I must remain positive under pressure

3. Expect _____ to come because they are _____

James 1:2 (ESV)

² Count it all joy, my brothers, **when you meet trials of various kinds**,

4. Realize that my problems are _____ and _____

James 1:3 (ESV)

³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

How Do My Problems Work for Me?

*We must always remember that God has **packed** every **problem** with **purpose** that **propels** us to reach our fullest **potential**.*

1. Problems purify my _____

James 1:3 (ESV)

³ for you know that the **testing of your faith** produces steadfastness.

2. Problems fortify my _____

James 1:3 (ESV)

³ for you know that the testing of your faith **produces steadfastness**.

3. Problems sanctify my _____

James 1:4 (ESV)

⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

What Should I do When I Have Problems

1. Ask God what to do and do it: _____

James 1:5 (NLT)

⁵ If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

2. We should trust God and not waiver in our faith: _____

James 1:5–8 (NLT)

⁵ If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. ⁶ But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

3. We should change our perspective and values:

James 1:9–11 (NLT)

⁹ Believers who are poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them. ¹⁰ And those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them. They will fade away like a little flower in the field. ¹¹ The hot sun rises and the grass withers; the little flower droops and falls, and its beauty fades away. In the same way, the rich will fade away with all of their achievements.

Making Stick

1. What's your current trial, and how is it affecting you?
2. How are you currently handling this trial?
3. What will happen if you keep doing what you've been doing with this trial?
4. What do you need to change to handle your trial the way God wants you to handle it?
5. Read James 1:2-4 and Romans 5:3-5. What do you think God wants to teach you through this trial that you're going through? Be specific.
6. When you think of all God could do in your life through this trial, can you see why the trial could be a good thing in your life?
7. What will you need to do if you want to accomplish God's goals for your trial?

Group Discussion Questions

1. Consider all that's going on in the world right now, What's the typical attitude Americans have about what going on? What are people saying?
2. Is the attitude any different for Christians and the church? Explain.
3. Why do you suppose we don't "count it all joy" when we encounter trials like James tells us to do in James 1:2-4?
4. Would you have as many trials if you didn't have free will? Why or why not?
5. Do you think It was hard for God to give us free will? Why or why not?
6. How does the fact that God uses trials to help us grow point to God's love for us and His overall brilliance?

Fill in the Blank Answer Key

God Helps Us Grow

1. book, the Bible
2. teacher, the Holy Spirit
3. environment, purpose of grace
4. method, renewing of mind
5. opportunities, trials

A Mature Mind

1. God's hand
2. rethink, think
3. problems, unavoidable
4. working for me, not against me

How Do My Problems Work For Me?

1. faith
2. patience
3. character

What Should I Do When I Have Problems?

1. ability
2. stability
3. eternity