

James 1:2-8 (ESV)

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

⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶But 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. ⁷For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

GOD USES TRIALS TO CHANGE OUR LIVES

- Because trials are: _____ (vs. 2)
 - Affecting all facets of life
 - Cost of being a follower of Christ (John 15:20; 1 Peter 2:19,21)
 - Spiritually mysterious (e.g., Job)
 - NOT to be commended: Caused by own wrongdoing (1 Peter 2:20)

- Because trials are: _____ (vvs. 3-4)

The Lies from Sin:

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strength = _____ Him = _____ Him

1 Peter 5:6-7 (ESV)

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

- Because trials makes us: _____ (vvs. 5-8)

(cf., Mark 9:22b-24)

Hebrews 12:2 (ESV)

... looking to 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.

THE BIG IDEA:

Trials bend our _____...

which positions us to _____ Jesus and to _____ Jesus.

FOR MEDITATION/REFLECTION:

- Why is it so hard for you to rejoice in a trial in the way God's Word commands us?
- What has God taught you about steadfastness?