

FAITH THAT WORKS

“The Maturing of Faith”

James 1:1-4

Series Introduction: James was the half brother of Jesus and pastor of a Church in Jerusalem. The purpose of the book of James is to practically demonstrate the correlation between a true follower of Jesus and his or her behavior.

Introduction: Trials, problems, disappointments all can be expected in this fallen world, but they don't have to be wasted. God can use these to develop and mature your faith. Those with a mature faith have the potential to live above trials and not under them.

The Possibilities of Trials

- They are intended to bring about evaluation *(1:2a)*
- They are intended to produce joy *(1:2b)*

The Problem with Trials

- They will come *(1:2c)*
- They will come in many colors *(1:2d)*

The Process of Trials

- Testing your faith *(1:3a)*

*“that the genuineness of your faith,
being much more precious than gold
that perishes, though it is tested by fire,
may be found to praise, honor,
and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:7)*

- Teaching you patience *(1:3b)*

The Purpose of Trials

- To bring about maturity in you: *(1:4a)*
 - Through bringing humility
 - Through weaning from the things of this world
 - Through focusing on the eternal
 - Through revealing what you truly love
- To bring about completion in you: *(1:4b)*
 - Through demonstrating the value of God's blessings
 - Through raising to greater usefulness for God's purposes

Application: When dealing with trials you must look for the possibilities. The only way to see the possibilities is to see the big picture. Would you say, the way you navigate through the trials, problems, and disappointments of your life, prove the genuineness of your faith?