

Fundamentals of the Christian Life: Suffering
James 1:2-4
October 30, 2022

- 1. Our responsibility to rejoice when suffering (2)**
- 2. God's immediate purpose in suffering (3)**
- 3. Our responsibility to let steadfastness have its full effect (4a)**
- 4. God's long-range purpose in suffering (4b)**

Next week: Joshua 24:15

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Discussion Questions

The following questions are designed to be used by parents in discussing the sermon with their children, but can be used by anyone in discussing the sermon with others:

1. What stood out to you in this sermon? Why?
2. What are trials (verse 2)? Give some examples of trials. What is one trial you have experienced?
3. What responsibilities does the Christian have when going through trials?
4. What is God's purpose in a Christian's trials?
5. What is steadfastness? Give an example from the Bible of a person who was steadfast while suffering trials.
6. Trials test the Christian's faith. Do you have faith in Christ? Explain.

Going Deeper:

These questions are designed for the believer to use in prayer with his/her Lord, and in discussion with brothers and sisters in the Lord:

1. How did this sermon challenge your thinking, or grow your understanding?
2. What sometimes keeps you from counting it all joy when you face trials? How can you overcome this?
3. What have you learned about your faith and your heart when trials have tested your faith?
4. Why is steadfastness (verse 3) valuable in God's sight?
5. Practically, how are we to "let steadfastness have its full effect" (verse 4)?
6. How have you seen God work through your trials to grow and mature you?
7. Do you care more about relief from trials, or being made "perfect and complete" (verse 4)? What in your life evidences this?
8. What is the primary way you should be affected by this passage this week?