



## So, You Think You Have Troubles!

with Pastor Max Frazier

*James 1:1-4*

### A BROTHER WHO BECAME A SLAVE

*James 1:1*

James: The Man

A half-brother of Jesus; was the oldest of the children born to Joseph and Mary  
(*Mark 6:3*)

Was critical and skeptical of Jesus while He was alive. (*John 7:2-5; Mark 3:21*)

Life was changed when he saw the risen Jesus. (*1 Corinthians 15:5-7*)

Became the leader of the Church. (*Acts 12:17; Acts 15:13-18*)

James: The Disciple

Identifies himself as being a slave

Term "slave" implies three truths:

A slave demonstrated absolute obedience to the master.

A slave's life was characterized by humility.

A slave practiced absolute loyalty.

### JOY IN TRIALS? REALLY?

*James 1:2-4*

The presence of sin creates a condition in life that impacts each one of us:

Problems

Trials

Headaches

Inconveniences

Jesus told us to expect them. (Matthew 5:11-12; John 16:33)

Trials come in all shapes and sizes.

"Trials" = testing someone or something to prove its value.

"Various" = many-colored. (Not all problems are the same.)

"Face" = encountering something unexpectedly.

"When" = idea of inevitability.

"The problems that occur within our lives will happen because we live in a fallen world. And these problems will come in a variety of experiences – some, we could describe as being simply 'annoying' while others are 'devastating.' The purpose of these problems is to test who we are."

Our attitude is to be one of joy.

James is not saying that problems or trials are joyful in and of themselves.

James says that we are to "consider it pure joy."

“Consider” = verb in the intensive tense; it is a command.

Joy is not the natural human response to encountering problems.

Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. (*Galatians 5:22-23*)

Why should we have joy?

Because God’s grace is always more than sufficient for us during those times. (*2 Corinthians 12:9*)

Because God always guides us through those problems. (*1 Corinthians 10:13*)

The threefold purpose of trials:

Develops perseverance or “endurance.”

It is a lasting quality.

Endurance leads to maturity.

Comes as we draw strength from the Lord.

Completion, lacking in nothing.

Trials are a way that God brings us into a deeper relationship with Himself.

One of the greatest “trials” God ever assigned to a man. (*Genesis 22*)

## A CHALLENGE

Perhaps verse 2 is foundational to the entire book.

The attitude with which we handle those challenges that come because of life, speaks powerfully about the foundation upon which our lives are built.

No matter what you are experiencing today, know this:

God is telling you to just trust in Him.

He will see you through.

He will give you His grace.

When you get through it, you will be a little more mature and complete than you were before.

