

INTRODUCTION

- * Last week we began a study of the book of James by considering James' declaration that God (the Father of lights) is the giver of good, moral gifts and every perfect bestowment.
- * This statement was made at the end of James' opening words, and immediately after the exhortation for the Jews of the Dispersion not to be led astray.
- * What was it then that James had declared? What was subject which we should be careful of not being led astray about ... and should be regarding as a good, moral gift and perfect bestowment?
- * We find the answer to that question immediately after his introduction. "Count it all joy WHEN you fall into various trials."
- * The early believers were facing extreme trials of their faith, how should they respond? Why were seemingly bad things happening to good people?
- * We will be considering this portion over the space of two weeks. For today, we want to consider our response and reaction to trials - WHEN YOU FALL INTO TRIALS.

INSTRUCTION**I. YOU SHOULD E_____****A. Understanding the Meaning of J_____**

- * count (cf. Phil 2:3,6,25; 3:7-8; Heb 11:26; 2 Pet 1:13; 2:13; 3:9,15)
- * joy (cf. Matt 2:10; Matt 28:8; John 8:56; Matthew 5:10-12; John 16:19-24; John 15:11; Philippians 4:4-8; Luke 8:13; Acts 5:41)

B. Knowing the Purpose of T_____

- 1 THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH W_____
 - * cf. 1 Peter 1:6-7; Romans 12:2; Gal 6:4; Phil 1:10; 1 Thess 5:21; 1 John 4:1; 2 Cor 13:2-8
2. THE BUILDING OF YOUR PATIENCE P_____ (cf. Romans 5:1-4; Hebrews 12:1-11)

II. YOU SHOULD E_____**A. The C_____ ... If you lack wisdom**

- * cf. Proverbs 1:5-7; 20:31; 9:4-6; 18:1-2; 3:5-7; 26:12; Psalm 19:7; 119:130; James 3:13-18

B. The C_____ ... Let him ask God

- * cf. Matt 7:7-11; John 15:7; 16:23-24; 1 John 3:33; 5:14-15

C. The C_____ ... You must ask in faith

- * cf. Mark 11:22-24; 1 Timothy 2:8; Hebrews 11:6

III. YOU SHOULD E_____**A. Trials Are E_____ (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13)**

- * Luke 14:11; 18:14; Job 5:11-13; Psalm 138:6; Prov 3:34; 16:18-19; 29:23; James 4:6,10; Luke 16:19-31

B. Persecutions are P_____**INTROSPECTION**

- * How do you respond to troublesome situations in your life?
- * Are you willingly accepting the training which God is providing you to grow in your faith?
- * What are the troublesome situations revealing about your faith? Have you truly committed your life to Christ?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * Consider reading portions of "Foxes' Book of Martyrs" or reading some of the testimonies of modern-day martyrs at www.persecution.com. How does understanding what others are going through help you in the midst of your trials?