

# “Persevering With Joy”

Pastor Tim Maddock

*A Series on the Book of James*

Text: James 1: 2-4; 1: 12; 5: 7-11

*I've got to confess, I do not typically do well with adversity. I also happen to know I am not alone when it comes to this. Most of us view the “trials” that James describes as inconveniences to our lives. After all, what are you really supposed to learn from a migraine... difficult boss...or an overdrawn checking account? And then there are the **BIG** trials of life like cancer, divorce, and disasters. Now, I might be able to handle James a bit better if he said “Hang in there when you face trials of many kinds” but he says “Consider it pure joy...” Is he serious?*

## 1. My Idea of the “Blessed Life” Conflicts With God’s Definition

## 2. Let’s Come to an Understanding on Some Key Words:

*a. Consider it pure joy* (1:2)

*b. Trials* (1:2, 12) “**Peirasmos**” = the obvious; also an experiment

*c. Testing* (1: 3; 12) “**Dokimion**” = proof; tried worth

*d. Perseverance* (1: 3, 4, 12; 5:11) “**Hupomone**” = unswerving, not fleeing

*e. Mature and Complete* (1: 4) ”**Teleios**” = perfect; see Matthew 5: 48

## 3. Let’s Also Draw Some Key Conclusions From Our Text:

- a. Trials are \_\_\_\_\_ and come in many forms
- b. Trials are tests of our faith; \_\_\_\_\_ is in on this too
- c. God allows these trials to develop a highly prized character trait
- d. Perseverance rounds us out, makes us a “\_\_\_\_\_” warrior
- e. Need incentive? Did I hear a doorbell or was that a trumpet?
- f. Need an example to model? \_\_\_\_\_ sets a pretty good pace!

#### 4. Remind Me Again...Why Does God Allow These Trials?

- a. To reveal the depth of our faith (what's in the \_\_\_\_\_?)
- b. To humble us (Paul's thorn in the flesh – 2 Cor. 12: 7)
- c. To wean us from dependence on \_\_\_\_\_ things
- d. To create a longing for \_\_\_\_\_ (Paul in Philippians 1: 23)
- e. To reveal what we really love
- f. To develop endurance in us so we can make a greater impact
- g. To enable us to better help others in their \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 2: 18; 4:15)