

Sermon Notes: Confident Faith

12.29.24

James 1:2-8

Pastor John mentioned that pain fuels prayer because our trials drive us to seek the Lord for answers. Often, we want the trial to end, but James tells us that we should consider it joy that we face trials because of what they produce.

Discussion:

As James is writing to the various Christians spread out throughout the territory, they are facing increased persecution from the Jews and eventually the Romans. The Jews saw them as a threat and a heresy as the Jews had rejected Jesus as the Messiah, and the Romans would be told these Christians wanted to overthrow the government. This of course was not true.

Can you think of the types of trials you have faced in your lifetime? Which ones were the most difficult?

David faced trials of his own making in II Samuel 12. He was the King of Israel, and because of his sin, Uriah, Bathsheba's husband would be killed in battle at the King's order.

David seeks God's favor for his child counting on God's mercy.

Jesus also faced a great trial. It would be in the form of execution, great sorrow, and pain. Jesus specifically prayed three times, and in Luke 22:43 an angel appeared to him after He prayed and strengthened Jesus.

Considering the great agony Jesus would face, He willingly chose to submit to the Father's Will. At no point was Jesus confused with His mission; he did request an alternative plan. His request was not sinful.

Questions to consider:

1. James 1:2-4 speaks of what trials produce. What is the progression James uses?
2. Romans 5 verses 3-5 are very similar to James 1:2-4. How is Romans 5:3-5 different from James 1:2-4.
3. David and Jesus both suffered trials. What was different in their trials? Compare Matthew 26:36-46 to II Samuel 12:15b-23.
4. What is the significance of Solomon? See Matthew 1:6, 18.
5. According to Isaiah 53:4-6, what did Jesus accomplish in fulfilling this prophecy and submitting to the Father's Will?

Application: No matter the trial(s) you may be facing, can you see what God is doing in your life through them? What is He doing in your family?

God does not always reveal His purposes to us in our time frame, but He does accomplish His plans, and according to James the benefit to us is Christian maturity. According to Romans 5:3-5, the end result is hope giving us a greater insight to God's love.