

## Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

## Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

## TURNING TRIALS INTO TRIUMPHS

James 1:1-12

**Main Thought:** We can turn trials into triumphs by viewing them as opportunities.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE BOOK OF JAMES (v 1)
  - 1) James was the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus
  - 2) James was the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church in Jerusalem.
  - 3) The \_\_\_\_\_ was written about 48 A.D.
  - 4) James wrote to \_\_\_\_\_ Christian Jews.
  - 5) James wrote to encourage spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.
2. OPPORTUNITIES FOR \_\_\_\_\_. (vv 2-4)
  - 1) The "irrational" call to \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) The \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_ develops \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) Perseverance produces \_\_\_\_\_.
3. OPPORTUNITIES FOR \_\_\_\_\_. (vv 5-7)
  - 1) Ask God for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2) Ask in \_\_\_\_\_.
4. OPPORTUNITIES FOR \_\_\_\_\_. (vv 8-11)
  - 1) The \_\_\_\_\_ believer.
  - 2) The \_\_\_\_\_ believer.
5. OPPORTUNITIES FOR \_\_\_\_\_. (v 12)
  - 1) Perseverance during \_\_\_\_\_ is the key to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2) Receiving the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

## **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS**

1. Read the entire book of James. What are your initial impressions of the letter? What themes jump out? What are the major concerns he is addressing?

2. What do you learn about James from the following verses? (See Mark 6:2-3; John 7:5; 1 Corinthians 15:7; Acts 15:13-21; 21:17-19)

3. Read James 1:1-12.

4. How does James describe himself in James 1:1?

5. Who was this letter addressed to? How is this significant in helping us understand the content of James' letter?

6. What attitude should believers have when going through difficulties and trials? What is this attitude based upon? (v 2)

7. What is the value of trials in our lives? (v 3)

8. What is the goal for which perseverance is the means? (v 4) What are some ways you have matured as a believer through trials? What lessons have you learned?

9. If believers cannot understand this process what should they ask for? What does God promise? (v 5)

10. Share a time when God gave you wisdom either during or after a difficult time in your life.

11. When a believer asks for wisdom, what should they guard against? Why? (vv 6-8)

12. How should believers who happen to be poor look at themselves? (v 9)

13. How should believers who happen to be wealthy look at themselves? (vv 10-11)

14. What is the reward for those who have persevered through trials? What is the crown of life? (v 12)

15. How will you apply this passage to your life this week?