

# James 1:2-8 “...the testing of your faith...”

## “It’s a Hard Knock Life”

### Introduction

*John 11:17-44 -*

### I. The School You NEVER Graduate From...

*John 16:33 - “I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”*

*Acts 14:22 - “...through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”*

Note: You WILL face numerous & diverse trials and you have NO \_\_\_\_\_ in the matter.

Note: These diverse trials/tests will not be of our choosing, but they will be of \_\_\_\_\_ choosing!

#### A. In the Midst of Trials... We Need a Big Glorious Christ-Centered Perspective!

Note: God desires, NOT to tempt us (*James 1:13*) but, to test our faith, and that, for our \_\_\_\_\_!

*Romans 12:2a - “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...”*

*Psalm 42:11 - “Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him, my salvation and my God.”*

Note: We must preach to ourselves the message of Christ’s redeeming & sustaining \_\_\_\_\_.

*John 6:37; Jude 24-25; John 10:11; Hebrews 12:2-3 -*

Note: We must preach to ourselves about the joy of Christ’s refining & sanctifying \_\_\_\_\_.

*Hebrews 12:11 - “For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”*

#### B. In the Midst of Trials... We Need to Believe & Trust God’s Process.

Note: In God’s process/plan, trials work \_\_\_\_\_ the Christian, not \_\_\_\_\_ the Christian.

*2 Corinthians 4:17; Romans 5:3-5; Hebrews 6:11-12; 1 Peter 1:6-7 -*

Note: Your Christian walk (your fight of faith) is a \_\_\_\_\_, not a skirmish or quick dash.

Note: Trials helps us to learn in \_\_\_\_\_ what we know in principle.

Note: God is a good sovereign precise surgeon applying the trials we need, \_\_\_\_\_ we need them.

## II. Wisdom: The Key Ingredient when Facing Trials

**QUESTION #1: What do we need? Answer: We need \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom!**

*WHY wisdom???*

*WHO should ask wisdom???*

*WHAT exactly is wisdom???*

***1 Corinthians 2:6-7; James 3:17-18 -***

*WHERE does wisdom come from???*

**QUESTION #2: What should we do? Answer: We should (in faith & \_\_\_\_\_) ask God!**

**QUESTION #3: What can we expect? Answer: That \_\_\_\_\_!!!**

**Positive:** The *sincere Christian* who ASKS IN FAITH can expect... \_\_\_\_\_!!!

*"...generously..."*

Note: The Greek word translated as "generously" means "without \_\_\_\_\_".

*"...to all..."*

*"...without reproach..."*

***Psalms 103:13-14 -***

*"...it WILL be given him. But let him ask in faith..."*

***Matthew 21:21-22 -***

Note: Our prayers should arise from confidence & trust in God's character & God's \_\_\_\_\_.

***James 4:3 -***

**Negative:** The *double-minded doubter* who ASKS IN DISBELIEF can expect... \_\_\_\_\_!!!

Note: God has \_\_\_\_\_ grace/patience for those struggling to grow in their faith & understanding.

***Mark 9:24; John 20:27 -***

Clarification: James does not have the honest doubter in mind here but the rebellious \_\_\_\_\_.

***Ephesians 4:14-15 -*** "...so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the Head, in to Christ."