

Spiritual Heritage

- James encourages Jewish Christians of their spiritual heritage as the people of God.
- James is writing about an attitude of joy that comes from knowing pain's purpose.
- James does not say <u>if</u> you face trials, but <u>when</u> you face trials.
- Trials, hardships and difficulties are part of life.
- When we are tested, we must confidently turn to God, trusting Him and not ourselves.

Suffering For Jesus

- The apostles considered it joy and an honor to suffer for Jesus.
- God wants us to pass the test because it produces steadfastness.
- Steadfastness leads us to perfection and completeness.
- We can count it all joy when we are tested, because God's expectancy for us is that we will pass the test.

Ask God For Wisdom

- We must ask God for wisdom to know how to handle the adversity and trials we are going to face.
- Wisdom is something which changes who we are.
- If we cannot let go of our desire to control everything, then all the wisdom from God will not matter.
- When you pray asking for two separate answers to your prayer, you are being doubleminded.
- We are to pray believing and trusting that God will answer that prayer.

Conclusion

- One of the most important aspects of becoming an authentic Christian is developing spiritual endurance.
- The trials are not God's purpose for your life, the end result, your becoming like Christ, is.
- Be joy-filled when bad things happen to you, because if you are willing, they will lead you to become more Christ-like.
- If we embrace God's wisdom, not the world's, we will become more and more the person God wants us to be.