



# SMALL GROUPS | CURRICULUM

SERMON TITLE	DATE
Title: Faith and Joy in Trials James 1:1 – 8	September 4, 2016

Tools: pen, pencils, your notes from the sermon

## New Series on James: Faith Changes Everything

### Overview of the book of James:

- Read: Mark 3:21 and John 7: 5. What did Jesus family think of Him?
- Who did Jesus appear to after his resurrection (1 Cor. 15: 5-8)?
- In Paul's first epistle, Gal 2:9, 12, how does he describe James?
- Read: Acts 15: 13-19. What kind of a role did James have at the Jerusalem Council?

1. What radically changed in James?

A. Who in your family has had a transformation like James? Who still antagonistic towards the gospel?

B. Who do you know who comes from a religious background have you seen transformed like the Jews in the dispersion? Who still is religious and needs Christ?

- The book of James contains over 50 commands for believers and has therefore been called the proverbs of the New Testament. It covers many topics, but its primary theme is ("**Be Doers not Just Hearers of God's word.**")
- One of the keywords is "faith" used about 16 times. In a book full of so many commands, why is faith so vital? Have there been times in your life where you had the appearance of obeying God's law but it was without faith?

Kyle gave us three things that must be true of our faith for you to count it all joy in any trial:

1. You must have faith in Jesus.
2. Your faith must meet trials.
3. Your faith must be tested.

Discuss why each area must be true in your life?

With this background, Kyle said there can be joy through trials, but only where there is faith... Here are three ways:

**1. Have faith; you will become steadfast (v.2-4)**

Look up the word faith ([www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)) or your concordance and write out its definition in verse three.

A. Why would a believer have joy in trials?

B. How would journaling our trials help us?

**2. Have faith; you will become mature (v.4)**

A. What is the goal of faith in trials?

B. What will cause you to let steadfastness have its full effect

C. Look at (John 6: 60 – 66) What did some so-called disciples do in this chapter?

D. What was Peter's response on behalf of the 12 (v. 68 – 69)? When have you had to do the same?

**3. Have faith you will receive wisdom. (v.5)**

A. What do you notice in v. 6-8 about faith?

B. Share a time when you received wisdom through a trial. How do you know it was wisdom?

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**James 1:2 – 4** “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

**Accountability Men/Women:**

A. Do an inventory of what you are asking God for. How can you practically have Jesus the focus of your prayers?

B. What trial is challenging your faith today?

C. What is true joy? Share the joy you have known from trials.