



**SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM
FOR THE SERMON PREACHED: NOVEMBER 13, 2016
TITLE: MIND BLOWING FAITH
PASSAGE: JAMES 1:9-18**

BIG IDEA: Single-minded faith in Christ is mind-blowing.

1. Read: Hebrews 11:1 and discuss how faith includes... the elements of believing, obedience, trust, hope. Read: Galatians 5:22-24. How is it possible for a believer to have faith and joy and the other 7 fruit mentioned here?

*notice that these nine characteristics are a unity of one fruit.

2. According to James 1:9-18 what has faith in Christ changed? If Faith changes everything, discuss how faith has changed you and is maturing you?

3. The basic attitude of the Jew in Paul's day was one of self-confidence which seeks self glory before God's glory and relies on self rather than God. Read: Galatians 6:14 according to this passage, what did Paul boast in?

Read: James 1:9-10 and note what commands James has for the lowly and rich? In what ways have you surrendered all self-glorification to glorify God alone? What would that look like in a believer's life? How do you do it?

4. Read James 1:12 - 15. How is it possible for a believer to be blessed [happy] by God and in the future receive the crown of life? Cross references Revelation 2:10, 3:11 for crown of life. Look up the word "trial" in www.blueletterbible.org. What other two words in verse 12 and 13 can this Greek word mean besides trial? How does context help us decide which meaning fits our verse? Discuss the meaning of steadfast in verse 3 and 4 and 12? When trials come, how will you be steadfast?

In light of James 1:13, discuss how we often want to blame God for the evil in our own life rather than look to ourselves for our desires? What emotions would show you that you are unhappy with God?

5. Look up the word "desire " in verse 14 and 15. What are the results of following one's own desire according to these verses?

6. In the sermon, Kyle gave us 4 reasons from verses 16-18, for a believer to desire God alone. 1. God's love 2. God's gifts 3. God's unchangeable character 4. God's ability to finish what he's started. How would you summarize all 4 points? How should this knowledge increase my desire for God alone? When I desire things that aren't of God, how can this knowledge of God help me fight those desires?

7. Spend some time prayerfully considering the following:

A. How do trials enable you and your faith to grow to be more like Jesus?

B. How I can boast in Christ alone and not in other things?

C. Galatians 5:16-18, 25: How I can better use the gift of the Holy Spirit in trials.?

D. How can I curb my desires and increase my desire of Christ alone?

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him." (James 1:12)