

D-5: Loving God in the Midst of Trials

James 1:1-12

Main Idea: When God allows trials, it is his sure-fire method for helping us grow. When we encounter them we're to respond to God in dependent faith. James gives us a five-fold process for exercising this kind of faith.

- 1. EXPECT THEM – We grow through trials by being prepared for them, realizing that sometimes life can be extremely difficult. 1:2**
 - A. *First question* – what is a trial and what does it mean to fall into one?
 - B. *Second question* – What kinds of trials might come up during the course of our lives?
 - C. *Third question* – Why doesn't God make life just a bit easier?

- 2. COUNT IT A JOY – We grow through trials by anticipating the results that God will bring about through them, and thanking him in advance. 1:2-4**
 - A. Our first response to trials is to count it a joy. 1:2
 - B. The reason why we count it a joy is because we're celebrating the future results of the trial. 1:3-4
 - C. *Application* – When a trial hits, acknowledge the pain and anticipate the gain.

- 3. ASK FOR WISDOM – We grow through trials by depending on God for wisdom. 1:5-8**
 - A. In trials we sometimes (but not always) lack wisdom, "if". 1:5a
 - B. It is important for us to understand the kind of wisdom James has in mind. 1:5b
 - C. When we ask for wisdom, we must do it without doubting. 1:6-8

- 4. ACCEPT YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES – We grow through trials by accepting our financial circumstances. 1:9-11**
 - A. *The problem* – In trials, we often use money to soften the pain of the trial.
 - B. *The solution* – Accept your financial circumstances. 1:9-11

- 5. PERSEVERE – We grow through trials by persevering to the blessing. 1:12**
 - A. *What is the blessing?* The blessing is the crown of life. 1:12a
 - B. *How does the blessing come?* The crown of life comes by persevering – or, loving God – until the trial is over. 1:12b
 - C. *The blessing brings us full circle* – The trial we counted a joy, has now produced joy. 1:12c