
Live It Out: Growing a Faith that Works – A Series in James – Week 1

BECOMING A STORM CHASER

Navigating Life's Common (& not so common) Storms | James 1:1-4; 12

By Rod MacIlvaine

Introduction: No matter where we choose to live around the world, each region will feature different weather patterns that will produce different types of storms. In the American Midwest, spring weather brings tornados. In the Caribbean, balmy summer brings potential for hurricanes. In Asia, there's typically one wet month called the monsoon season, that begets torrential downpours and potential for floods. And in the Middle East sandstorms can crop up any time. While these storms are common, they occur with varying degrees of severity, and they often come with irritating inconvenience. In a similar manner, life is filled with common – and sometimes not so common – storms: *trials!* How we choose to habitually respond to those trials will shape our lives in profound ways. In time, they will either form us into spiritual adults or keep us stuck in emotional adolescence. James shows us the path to adulthood. As James opens his book, he gets down to brass tacks, and he encourages his readers with a pattern of responding to trials that is not only practical – we now know it's consistent with brain science. Let's begin with the author.

1. James' story of trials

James 1:1

2. 1st response: emotional

James 1:2a

3. 2nd response: intellectual

James 1:4

4. 3rd response: spiritual

James 1:4; 12

5. Idea

6. Takeaways