

# HANDLING DIFFICULTIES

## JAMES 1:1-12

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Pastor Chris preaches from the CSB

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The BIG idea of James is the practical proof of how our born-again life will show up in **visible, tangible, demonstrable** ways in our lives.

**Biblical Premise:** What do we do as believers when we find ourselves having **great difficulty** in life?

**Authorship:** All scholars agree the James that penned this letter is the **half-brother** of the Lord Jesus.

**Audience:** Jewish Christians who have been scattered across the **empire**.

### Why?

- They are in a **hostile culture** not friendly to Christ followers.
- This is a **play book** for new believers in a hostile land.
- Count any trials in your life as a **joy**.

### Why Would I Do That?

- Because you know this is a test of faith that will produce **good results**.

## 2 Actions For Our Lives When We Face Trials

1. Hold on to the fact that in your circumstances **Jesus is working**.

- There is a **purpose** in the pain.
- Joy and happiness are not the **same** thing.

*“Joy is found in Jesus and its less an emotion and more a settledness in your soul.”*

### Defining Terms

Joy: supernatural delight in the **Lord Jesus** and His **people**.

In the confusion of our trials, you need to be able to say...

- Jesus **loves me**.
- He is **Sovereign**.
- He is in **control**.
- He is a good God who is for **me**.

Principle of life...

- If I don't cooperate with what the Lord is trying to teach me, I might have to **retake** the trial.

The invitation...

2. Hold on to the invitation that if you don't know what to do in a trial, you have been invited to ask God for **wisdom**.

But understand...

- Asking with faith and doubting means you want His help, but you don't really want to do it **His way**.

Do you want to change?