

May 17, 2015
James 1:1-4

MATURING THROUGH TRIALS

I. Introduction: Background of The Book Of James

James addresses the questions:

“If you say you believe, why do live as if you don’t?” Or as Chuck Colson wrote in his book Loving God asks, **“What good is it to have beliefs, if you are not going to live by them.”**

“James a servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ, **To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations.** James 1:1

- Who was James?

- Who was the audience?

II. In Our Problems, (trials) We must realize:

A. Difficulties Come Into _____ Life

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, **whenever** you face trials of **many** kinds.” James 1:2

1. Trials are _____

2. Trials are _____

B. Our _____ Determines The Outcome.

“**Consider** it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds.” James 1:2

C. We Can Be Certain God Has A _____

[3] because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. [4] Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be **mature** and complete, not lacking anything.” James 1:3-4

3 Purposes of Trials:

- Problems Purify My _____
- Problems Develop My _____
- Problems Build My _____

4 Things Maturity is not:

- Maturity is not _____
- Maturity is not _____
- Maturity is not _____
- Maturity is not _____
- ** Maturity is _____

III. Conclusion and Application: (See Points To Ponder)

Maturing Through Trials
Points To Ponder
James 1:1-4
Week of May 17th to May 23rd

Open It:

1. Would you agree or disagree with the statement, "Life is 10 percent what happens to you and 90 percent how you respond to what happens to you"?
2. How would you respond to someone who tells you that good can come from the trials which you are experiencing?

Explore It:

3. Who wrote this letter? ([1:1](#))
4. To whom was this letter written? ([1:1](#))
5. What attitude did James tell people to exhibit when they are facing trials? ([1:2](#))
6. What is produced when our faith is tested? ([1:3-4](#))

Get It:

7. What trials and difficulties have you experienced during your life?
8. Why does God allow people to go through trials and difficulties?
9. What good has ever come out of a difficult situation in your life?

10. How does a person's relationship with God change as he or she goes through trials and problems?

Apply It:

11. What do you believe God is trying to teach you this week through the trials and situations you are experiencing?