

## Day 20 - Perseverance in Faith

There is no escaping trials in this life. As much as we try to live in comfort and move through trials quickly, God has more treasure hidden within the trial than we can imagine—more than our own comfort. God says we can experience joy in the midst of our suffering because we know that He uses it to produce something worthwhile and eternal in us.

In what ways have you grown spiritually as a result of the trials you've faced?

Our focus scripture for today is James 1:2-4:

“<sup>2</sup> Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. <sup>4</sup> And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.”

When we persevere through challenges in faith, we step forward with confidence—not in our own strength, but with God’s power in us. Endurance is cultivated, a steadfast refusal to give up because we trust in the One who holds our future. We learn patience in waiting, understanding that His plans surpass our own. Even amidst future trials, there is joy, for we know true, deep, and lasting joy is found with Him. These experiences create a spiritual muscle memory within us, a deep conviction that leads us back to our faithful God in every trial.

Pause to ask God for strength to persevere through any current trial...asking God to give you an eternal perspective to experience joy in the midst of these trials.

As an invitation to a spiritual practice—a way to say “yes, Lord,” commit this week to a predetermined time of fasting. In the Bible, Fasting means to go without food - a meal or longer. But we can also go without things like social media, the news, or our phones to seek the Lord’s presence and guidance. In the discomfort fasting produces, give God your ‘yes’ by seeking to align your heart to His presence and will.

Prepare to walk with God into the day before us, the Lord who loves us says in Psalm 112:6-8:

“<sup>6</sup> He will never be shaken. The righteous one will be remembered forever. <sup>7</sup> He will not fear bad news; his heart is confident, trusting in the LORD. <sup>8</sup> His heart is assured; he will not fear. In the end, he will look in triumph on his foes.”

Father, help us discern where you are leading us as a church - making Your invitation clear.

Jesus, help us become worshipers, friends, apprentices, and guides who live as disciple-makers in all areas of our everyday.

Spirit, help us become a disciple-making hub, loving the lost and proclaiming Jesus in all we do and say so our communities will flourish.