



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: **Faith Working Through Trials**

Speaker: **Rich Villodas – Lead Pastor**

Scriptures: **James 1: 1- 17**

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:

Greetings.

Trials and Temptations

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. **4** Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. **5** If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. **6** But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. **7** That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. **8** Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

9 Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. **10** But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. **11** For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; **14** but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. **15** Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

16 Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. **17** Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, we will start our summer series through the Book of James. Pastor Rich will kick off our series, with a focus on how our faith works to produce particular fruit in our lives, especially in the midst of trials.

Sermon Questions:

1. How do you tend to view your trials? Where do you go to in stress? How did your family of origin respond to trials?
2. James, the younger brother of Jesus, encourages the scattered believers to consider their trials *pure joy* because God is at work in the trial to strengthen and build perseverance. As Pastor Rich described, to persevere means to be able to bear up under a heavy load over time. In trials, though the circumstances are not good, you can trust that God is forming something in you, not possible to achieve on your own, to make you stronger, mature and complete - to expand your capacity. Have you experienced this in past trials? If you are facing a trial currently, what might God want you to get out of going through this time?
3. God does not desire us to be stuck. Why is perseverance so important for our lives and as a church as followers of Jesus? What might be possible as Christians and the church as we are strengthened?
4. Share a time you have been encouraged by fellow Christians who have gone through something. What was helpful about that experience?
5. In trials, we can easily pray for miracles, change of circumstances, and for God to get us out of it, instead of praying for wisdom. How could wisdom from God be helpful in times of trials?
6. Take time to share requests and pray for one another - we are all either in a trial, coming out of a trial or entering a trial.