

No Pain, No Gain"
James 1:2-4
February 9, 2014

In James 1:2-4 James leaps head first into his most pressing issue: trials.

The Greek word for trials is "peirasmos".

This word can refer to tests that God uses to challenge the integrity of a believer's faith or it can refer to temptations that Satan uses to bait the believer into sin.

"Count it all joy when you fall into various trials."

The word "count" is a banking term. It is used in terms of putting something in the asset column or putting something in the liability column. When James says "count it all joy" he wants us to put trials in the asset column.

Three truths about trials:

1. Trials are inevitable. (v.2)
2. Trials are unavoidable. (v.2)
3. Trials are varied. (v.3)

The word "various" literally means multicolored.

There are two kinds of trials. There are trials of correction and there are trials of perfection. —O.S. Hawkins

God's purpose for trials:

(two-step process)

Step #1: Trials produce a spiritual toughness.
(v.3)

Step #2: Spiritual toughness leads to Christlikeness.
(v.4)