

What do you think the “crown of life” is?

How does it help you to know that there is a reward for those who endure suffering?

*Ask God to help you remember as you go through trials that there is a reward for suffering.*

### Friday

Write down some of the trials causing anxiety or pain in your life now:

What have you learned this week that has helped you in these trials?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3–11. How does God use our sufferings in the lives of others?

How have you seen this to be true?

*Determine to encourage someone today with the comfort you received from God in your own sufferings. Thank God for His comfort, and continue to ask for wisdom today!*

### Saturday

*Today make sure you have this week’s verse memorized, and finish any devotions you may have missed. Please pray for all the services this weekend. Thanks!*

*Some questions for this week’s daily devotions adapted from James: Life Application Bible Study*

## Prayer Updates

### Joy & Blessing

Brian and Leigha Thomas welcome their first child, **Jacob Michael**, born 2/10. Delighted grandparents are Michael & Kathleen Lineberry, and Michael & Pam Thomas.

### Hospitalized & Surgeries this past week...

Adrian Moreno – kidney stone, surgery  
Bonnie Fisher – broken hip, surgery  
Katie Cease – RCU, broken leg, surgery recovery  
Helen “Tari” Sypherd – RCU, Parkinson’s, severe pain issues

**Recent hospitalizations/surgeries:** Jeannette Scott, Jon Haro, Kathy Holderman, Patrick Walsh (home from NICU)

**Hospice Care:** Norma Moniodis, Catherine Drews

### We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 831-465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups — call 831-689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center. **Subscribe to the Prayer Update: [www.tlc.org/profiles](http://www.tlc.org/profiles)**



## Handling Tough Times

February 13 & 14, 2010 • René Schlaepfer  
James 1:2–6, 12

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.” *James 1:2–3 [NIV]*

My \_\_\_\_\_ is affected by my \_\_\_\_\_

### What do I know about my problems?

1. Problems are \_\_\_\_\_  
“...whenever...” *v. 2*

2. Problems are \_\_\_\_\_  
“...you face trials...” *v. 2*  
“face”: Greek *peripto*, “to fall into \_\_\_\_\_”

3. Problems are \_\_\_\_\_  
“...of many kinds...” *v. 2*  
“many kinds”: Greek “\_\_\_\_\_”

4. Problems can have \_\_\_\_\_  
“...the testing of your faith...” *v. 3*

Two ways problems can have value:

• Increased \_\_\_\_\_  
“... develops perseverance... so that you may be mature...” *v. 3,4*

Patience is the key to \_\_\_\_\_ other blessing.

• Deepened \_\_\_\_\_  
“...so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” *v. 4*

## How can I grow through my problems?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
“Consider it pure joy...” *v. 1*  
“Consider”: Greek “\_\_\_\_\_ it up, do the \_\_\_\_\_”  
“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, **he will receive the crown of life** that God has promised to those who love him.” *v. 12*  
Key concept: I can \_\_\_\_\_ my response
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
“If any of you lack wisdom, you should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault and it will be given to him.” *v. 5*
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
“But when he asks he must believe and not doubt.” *v. 6*

## Sermon discussion groups

You can download discussion questions for sermon-based small groups at [www.tlc.org/ministries/smallgroups/archive.php](http://www.tlc.org/ministries/smallgroups/archive.php)

You can join a sermon-based small group at [www.tlc.org/ministries/smallgroups/search.php](http://www.tlc.org/ministries/smallgroups/search.php)

## Further Reading on Handling Life’s Troubles

*Life After the Death of My Son: What I’m Learning*, Dennis L. Apple

*Shattered Dreams: God’s Unexpected Path to Joy*, Larry Crabb

*Journey to a New Beginning After a Loss*, Scott Reall

*The Bumps Are What You Climb On*, Warren Wiersbe

*Disappointment with God*, Philip Yancey

*Ideas and inspiration for today’s outline from Rick Warren, Developing a Faith That Works, and Warren Wiersbe, Be Mature*

## Daily Meditations

Brief Bible readings based on this weekend’s topic

### Monday

When did you undergo the most difficult period of your life? What kept you going? What did you learn? How did you grow, looking back?

Read James 1:1. Recall last weekend’s message, or watch the first few minutes online. What do you know about the probable author of this letter?

What audience was James addressing? What do you know about their situation? For example: Were they in easy times or tough times? Were they well-liked or persecuted?

James was concerned because many Christians of the day were satisfied with mere intellectual agreement with Christianity. To what extent do you think this is a problem today?

What can we do as a church to help Christians put their faith into practice?

*Ask God to help you to put your faith into practice today!*

### Tuesday

Read James 1:2–4 and 1 Peter 1:6–7, amazingly similar passages. Why is it tough to respond to trials with joy?

According to these verses, how can trials be helpful?

If trials are so beneficial, why don’t we look forward to them?

Think of someone you know who has had a tough life. What has helped that person persevere?

*Specifically bring to God trials you are going through right now. Ask him for help and guidance.*

### Wednesday

Read James 1:5–6. What kind of help does God offer Christians when they undergo trials?

How can wisdom help when going through tough times?

What does James say we need to do to receive this help from God?

*Again, specifically bring to God trials you are going through right now. Today ask Him for wisdom, which someone defined as the ability to see things from an eternal or godly perspective.*

### Thursday

Read James 1:12, Matthew 5:3–10 and 2 Corinthians 4:17. Generally speaking, what is promised in these verses?



Memory Verse

“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.” *James 1:12 (NIV)*