

When Life Gets Tough

January 8, 2017

James 1:1-18

How Real Faith Responds to Tough Times:

²Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

1. Real faith recognizes tough times as an opportunity for growth.

⁶But 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. ⁷That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

2. Real faith turns to God and trusts him completely.

¹⁶Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

3. Real faith refuses to doubt God's goodness.