

**A Revival Of Our Hearts**  
**“Choosing Joy In My Trials: James 1:2-4”**  
**Cornerstone Church Of Poway**  
**Pastor Ed Turley**  
**April 19, 2020**

**Big Idea:** We need a revival in our hearts and homes that changes lives.

“Come close to God, and God will come close to you.” **James 4:8a (NLT2)**  
**Remember Verse**

“James, a servant of God and of the **Lord Jesus Christ**, To the twelve tribes **scattered** among the nations: **Greetings. Consider** it pure **joy**, my brothers, whenever you face **trials of many kinds**,” **James 1:1-2 (NIV)**

**I Can Choose Joy During This Crisis Because:**

**1. Trials** \_\_\_\_\_

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the **good** of those **who love God** and are called according to His **purpose** for them. For God **knew** His people in advance, and He chose them to become **like His Son**, so that His Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”

**Romans 8:28-29 (NLT2)**

“And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that **everything** that has happened to me here has **helped** to spread the Good News. For everyone here, including the **whole palace guard**, knows that I am in chains **because of Christ**. And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have **gained confidence** and **boldly speak** God’s message without fear.”

**Philippians 1:12-14 (NLT2)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Trials** \_\_\_\_\_

“For you know that when your **faith is tested**, your **endurance** has a chance to grow.” **James 1:3 (NLT2)**

“So be truly glad. There is wonderful **joy ahead**, even though you have to **endure many trials** for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is **genuine**. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your **faith remains strong** through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.” **1 Peter 1:6-7 (NLT2)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Trials Develop \_\_\_\_\_

“So let it **grow**, for when your **endurance** is fully developed, you will be **perfect** and **complete**, needing nothing.” **James 1:4 (NLT2)**

**God matures us through:**

- **His Word**

Jesus said, “Sanctify them by the truth; your **word** is truth.” **John 17:17 (NIV)**

- **Circumstances**

“We can rejoice, too, when we run into **problems** and **trials**, for we know that they help us **develop endurance**. And endurance develops **strength of character**, and character strengthens our **confident hope** of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the **Holy Spirit** to fill our hearts with his love.”

**Romans 5:3-5 (NLT2)**

“God **blesses** those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the **crown of life** that God has promised to those who love him.” **James 1:12 (NLT2)**

➤ **How should I respond to this trial I am in?**

**My next right step, I will choose joy by:**

- Making a list of things I am grateful for
- Rejoicing over the opportunities God has given
- Reaching out to someone who is hurting

continued...

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**Family Corner:** [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it to 12 minutes or less.]

**Small Groups:** [Choose as many questions that honors your group’s time commitment]

**Open in Prayer:**

- What thoughts from this week’s message encourages me to live a life for Jesus?

**Icebreaker:** What was the biggest trial you experienced in Jr. High?  
What was the outcome?

**Big Idea:** We need a revival in our hearts and homes that changes lives.

“Come close to God, and God will come close to you.” **James 4:8a (NLT2)**

**Remember Verse**

**I Can Choose Joy During This Crisis Because:**

**1. Trials Are Opportunities**

**Read James 1:1-2**

How can a person consider trouble as an opportunity for joy?

Where have you found a reason to rejoice in your current situation?

**Read Romans 8:28-29**

What promise is given for those who love God?

What does God want for each of us? What does that look like?

**Read Philippians 1:12-14**

What opportunities came out of Paul being in a Philippian jail?

What opportunities do you see God working in your situation?

**2. Trials Increases The Strength Of My Faith**

**Read James 1:3**

Where has your faith been tested in the past?

Where is your faith being tested right now?

### **Read 1 Peter 1:6-7**

What does fire do to precious metal?

How does the analogy of precious metal apply to our faith?

What is the purpose of the testing?

### **3. Trials Develop My Character**

#### **Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary**

Note that the object of God's testing is "your faith." Our heavenly Father is no mad scientist trying to torture his subjects to the breaking point. He's more like an expert trainer who knows which muscles to develop, what diet to follow, and what schedule to keep in order to bring about the best results. The goal is not to snap our faith muscles, but to stretch and strengthen them, producing *endurance*—the strength to "hang in there."

Endurance is just the initial result. Endurance itself has an even greater purpose, a "perfect result," literally, "perfect work." God says, in effect, "In My sovereign plan I've lined up a chain of events that will take place, and My finger of testing pushes the first one—endurance." When endurance takes place, it bumps into maturity; then that leads ultimately to a fully developed character.

### **Read James 1:4**

What is God's desire for us?

How are you growing?

#### **God matures us through:**

- **His Word**

#### **Read John 17:17**

What does Jesus use to set us apart?

- **Circumstances**

#### **Read Romans 5:3-5**

What is the process of problems and trials in a Christian's life?

What are some changes you see in your character due to recent trials?

How confident is your hope? Explain.

### **Read James 1:12**

What is God's promise for those who patiently endure?

How is your patience in this situation?

- **How should I respond to this trial I am in?**

**Close in Prayer:** Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.

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