

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. Happy New Year! What are some goals you have created for yourself in 2021?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

Read James 1:1-18

2. How does James identify himself? How does he see himself? How do you see yourself?
3. What should you consider, "joy?"
4. How would you describe perseverance? According to this passage, how do you get it?
5. Why do some people give up, and others stay in the fight? Compare the question to this quote, "It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer." - Albert Einstein
6. What do you think about this quote? "I'm convinced that about half of what separates the successful entrepreneurs from the non-successful ones is pure perseverance." - Steve Jobs
7. According to the parable of the sower in Luke 8, what key ingredient is needed to "bear fruit?"
8. Let's continue in James. According chapter one, what is promised to those who persevere? Compare with Proverbs 24:16.

Read Hebrews 10:32-36.

9. Are you just as passionate about God's purpose for your life as the early days?

10. Do your actions reflect this passion?

11. What are the four battles in James chapter one that we should expect to face?

Application

Below are some of the points or quotes shared in the message.
Discuss how they apply to your life.

- “The strongest oak tree of the forest is not the one that is protected from the storm and hidden from the sun. It's the one that stands in the open where it is compelled to struggle for its existence against the winds and rains and the scorching sun.” - Napoleon Hill

Scripture doesn't tell us WHEN James became a CHRISTIAN.

We don't know his conversion story. But AT SOME POINT...

- The love of God became personal for him.
- He experienced the forgiveness of his sins.
- His sins were forgotten by God.
- His guilt and shame was removed.
- He experienced the power of the Holy Spirit.
- He became IN DEBT to God.
- Nothing and nobody else mattered.

- **Perseverance:** Continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition.