

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Date: June 14, 2023
James 1:1-8

1. Why, according to verses 2-3, does James say to “consider it pure joy...whenever you face trials of many kinds?”
 - a. Because he is crazy.
 - b. He’s one of these irritating people that never seem to have any problems and for whom everything is always going fine.
 - c. Because “the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”

2. How is it possible to “consider it pure joy” when we face trials?
 - a. It isn’t, it is just what we say in Bible Study because it sounds good.
 - b. He doesn’t say we have to like the trials; he is reminding us to remember how God uses these trials and works them for our good (Genesis 50:20)

3. What is the importance of perseverance, according to verse 4?
 - a. It isn’t that important.
 - b. In a world where people give up on jobs, relationships, etc. quickly, perseverance enables us to stay where God places us for the long haul, despite the attacks of the enemy.
 - c. When perseverance finishes its work, we are mature and complete, not lacking anything.
 - d. It seems possible (or likely) that, if we don’t develop perseverance, we lack something...is that something perseverance, itself, or is it something else?

4. What does this say about us if we give up easily when we encounter opposition?
 - a. We’re normal.
 - b. This would be the opposite of “mature and complete, not lacking anything”
 - c. We are immature.
 - d. We lack something that God desires for us to have.
 - e. We do not yet reflect the image of the God who is using these things to mold us into his image.

5. Are you persevering in trials? Yes_____ No_____ Have you missed anything that God wanted for you because you gave up when things got hard? Yes_____ No_____ Explain. _____

6. Have you ever felt like you lacked wisdom? Yes_____ No_____ Explain. _____

7. Read 1 Kings 3:5-9 and Proverbs 1:1-7. How do these describe wisdom? _____

8. What does James say we should do if we lack wisdom, according to 1:5-6?_____

9. How do you think God gives us wisdom, according to this text?
 - a. It sounds like he just gives it to us freely.
 - b. Discernment beyond our experience can be given only by our willingness to trust and rely on God...often in the moment when we have no way of knowing what to do otherwise.
 - c. Most wisdom comes through experience...often brought through the trials, if we allow God to make us mature and complete through perseverance.