

The Trials That Refine You

By Pastor Ruttan, September 18, 2020

This sermon is Part 1 of a teaching series on the book of James called “Down-To-Earth.” Today we explore James 1:1-18. Make sure to have your Bible with you. Don't be afraid to take notes of insights you have about the text.

1. Based on the description of James, why is he a good person to take advice from?
2. As we look at this text, what is the key concept that Pastor Ruttan wants us to keep in mind?
3. What is a “trial”?
4. What does it mean to “persevere”?
5. Verse 12 says: “Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the that the Lord has promised to those who him.”
6. Verse 17 says: “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”
7. How do trials increase your self-awareness?
8. Trials should increase your maturity. How?
9. Trials should increase your wisdom. Commenting on this same text, John Calvin said that God “is prepared to heap new benefits on top of the old, with neither nor .”
10. Trials don't define you—they you.
11. What are some of your own personal trials as a believer?
12. Based on this text, and as you think about your personal situation, how can YOUR trials refine YOU?