

*Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do. James 1:2-8*

## **Place Your Faith**

**How will you respond to troubles when they come your way? Will you try to avoid them at all costs? Will you treat them as if they were your worst enemy? Will you try to ignore them with the hope that they will go away all by themselves? Will you engage in an all-out effort to try to overcome troubles with your own power and strength? Will you become bitter with the thought that you don't deserve to be experiencing troubles? Will you follow your own counsel and seek your own advice when you find yourself in trouble? Will you place your faith in your closest and wisest friends? Will you listen to anyone and everyone who offers you advice? Where will you place your faith?** You certainly do have a lot of questions for me today. **Do you find them to be good questions, that you will do well to consider?** Yes, they are good questions. I know some things for certain. **What's that?** I have not welcomed troubles into my life as friends. The idea of finding myself in the troubles of life has not brought joy into my heart. I have tried to avoid troubles. I have ignored troubles. I have hoped that troubles would quickly disappear. I know for sure that I have often placed my faith in everything and anyone other than you. I have foolishly relied on myself and others. The dumbest thing I have done was to live by my own counsel and follow my own advice. For all the ways I have misplaced my faith, I ask for your forgiveness. **You are forgiven. What would you like to do differently?** I would like to place my faith in you alone. I would like to rely on you on every day and in every circumstance of my life. I would like to pray faith filled prayers to you for wisdom as I walk through life with you. I would like to live in an intimate relationship with you as you guard and guide me through life. I would like to live with the joyful knowledge that the troubles of life will only serve to strengthen my faith in you. Troubles will draw me nearer and closer to you. In that way, yes, I can admit that troubles can and should be welcomed into my life because I know that you will powerfully use them for good in my life. **Yes, I will. Will you place your faith in me as you go through troubles in life?** Yes, I will. **That will be very good.**

*Lord, I have not always placed my faith in you alone. I'm sure that comes as no great surprise. Forgive me. Through all the troubles of life, I will place my faith in you. I will rely on you. I will ask for your wisdom. I will ask for your help. Strengthen my faith in you. Amen*

## The Prayer Filled Life

*Consider It Pure Joy*

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

NIV

James 1:2-8

## The Prayer Filled Life

*An Opportunity for Great Joy*

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

NLT

James 1:2-8

## The Prayer Filled Life

*Consider It Nothing But Joy*

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

NRSV

James 1:2-8

## The Prayer Filled Life

*Consider It Wholly Joyful*

Consider it wholly joyful, my brethren, whenever you are enveloped in or encounter trials of any sort or fall into various temptations. Be assured and understand that the trial and proving of your faith bring out endurance and steadfastness and patience. But let endurance and steadfastness and patience have full play and do a thorough work, so that you may be [people] perfectly and fully developed [with no defects], lacking in nothing. If any of you is deficient in wisdom, let him ask of the giving God [Who gives] to everyone liberally and ungrudgingly, without reproaching or faultfinding, and it will be given him. Only it must be in faith that he asks with no wavering (no hesitating, no doubting). For the one who wavers (hesitates, doubts) is like the billowing surge out at sea that is blown hither and thither and tossed by the wind. For truly, let not such a person imagine that he will receive anything [he asks for] from the Lord, [For being as he is] a man of two minds (hesitating, dubious, irresolute), [he is] unstable and unreliable and uncertain about everything [he thinks, feels, decides].

AMP

James 1:2-8

## The Prayer Filled Life

*Consider It All Joy*

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

NASB

James 1:2-8

## The Prayer Filled Life

*Count It All Joy*

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

ESV

James 1:2-8

## The Prayer Filled Life

*Count It All Joy*

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

NKJV

James 1:2-8

## The Prayer Filled Life

*Consider It A Sheer Gift*

Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way. If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it. Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought. People who "worry their prayers" are like wind-whipped waves. Don't think you're going to get anything from the Master that way, adrift at sea, keeping all your options open.

MSG

James 1:2-8

## The Prayer Filled Life

*Be Happy*

Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete. If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you, for he is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask him; he will not resent it. But when you ask him, be sure that you really expect him to tell you, for a doubtful mind will be as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind; and every decision you then make will be uncertain, as you turn first this way and then that. If you don't ask with faith, don't expect the Lord to give you any solid answer.

TLB

James 1:2-8

## The Prayer Filled Life

*Be Full Of Joy*

My brothers and sisters, when you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience. Let your patience show itself perfectly in what you do. Then you will be perfect and complete and will have everything you need. But if any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He is generous and enjoys giving to all people, so he will give you wisdom. But when you ask God, you must believe and not doubt. Anyone who doubts is like a wave in the sea, blown up and down by the wind. Such doubters are thinking two different things at the same time, and they cannot decide about anything they do. They should not think they will receive anything from the Lord.

NCV

James 1:2-8

# An Opportunity for Great Joy

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**The Prayer Filled Life** – James 1:2-8

**In Context:** *Read James 1*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God's Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do. James 1:2-8 (NLT)

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Dear brothers and sisters, | when troubles come your way, | consider it | an opportunity for great joy. | For you know that | when your faith | is tested, | your endurance | has a chance to grow. | So let it grow, | for when your endurance | is fully developed, | you will be perfect | and complete, | needing nothing. | If you need wisdom, | ask our generous God, | and he will give it to you. | He will not | rebuke you for asking. | But when you ask him, | be sure | that your faith | is in | God alone. | Do not waver, | for a person | with divided loyalty | is as unsettled | as a wave | of the sea | that is blown | and tossed by | the wind. | Such people | should not expect | to receive anything | from the Lord. | Their loyalty | is divided | between God | and the world, | and they are | unstable in everything | they do. James 1:2-8 (NLT)

**Praying The Scripture:**

***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I have not always placed my faith in you alone. I'm sure that comes as no great surprise. Forgive me. Through all the troubles of life, I will place my faith in you. I will rely on you. I will ask for your wisdom. I will ask for your help. Strengthen my faith in you. Amen

**What It Means:** ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How has your faith been tested by the troubles you have encountered in life?

**How are you learning to place your faith in God alone as you encounter troubles in life?**

How is the testing of your faith causing your faith to become stronger and more fully developed?

**When have you asked God for wisdom as you have gone through troubles in life?**

What can you expect to receive from God if you pray wavering doubt filled prayers to Him?

**How has God heard and answered the prayers for wisdom you have prayed to Him?**

How does knowing that troubles will develop the endurance of your faith giving you an opportunity for great joy?

**Living It Out:**

***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Place your faith in God alone as you go through troubles in life.

**Seeing It Happen:**

***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that God will hear and answer your prayers for wisdom as you place your faith in Him alone.

**Get Ready To Share:**

***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you are learning to place your faith in God alone.

**Close With Prayer:**

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

**Journal**

*As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

**What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?**

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**What Prayers Are You Praying Today?**

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**Prayer Of Blessing**

*(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)*

*May you place your faith in God alone as you go through troubles in life.*

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**Prayer To Carry**

*(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)*

*Lord, I will place my faith in you alone as I go through troubles in life.*

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**What Do You Want To Remember About Today?**

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**A Question To Ask God**

*(What Would You Like To Ask God?)*

*Lord, how can I place my faith in you alone today?*

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