

OUTLINE:

August 28, 2016

SERMON NOTES

When Life Confronts Our Knowledge of God

James 1:1-18

Pastor Billy Gotcher

- A. The trials of life expose the condition of our walk - Are we living by faith? (v.v. 1-2)
 - 1. Faith responds with Joy to the Certainty of Trials.
 - 2. Faith responds with Joy to the Diversity of Trials.
- B. Why does Faith enable God's children to respond with Joy? (v.v. 3-4)
 - 1. Faith knows that God's purpose for the trial is good.
 - 2. Faith longs to be complete - for the day when God will finish in us what He began.
- C. What is the secret to experiencing such Joy filled Faith? (v. 5-8).
 - 1. We must remember who our Father is and ask Him for wisdom.
 - 2. We must stop doubting our Father's goodness and repent of our double-minded ways.
- D. What full effect does God need to produce in our lives? (vv. 9-12)
 - 1. The poor need to be lifted up from their despair!
 - 2. The rich need to be humbled by grace.
 - 3. Both the poor and the rich need persevering faith - Confidence in the Goodness of God at all times.
- E. Why is it so hard to get faith right? (v.v. 13-16.)
 - 1. Our sinful desires exalt self while belittling God.
 - 2. Our sinful desires are deceitful.
- F. How do we overcome our sinful desires and let trials accomplish their perfect work? (vv. 17-18).
 - 1. Live by Faith - Confident in the Goodness of God.
 - 2. Live by Faith - Resting in God's Gracious Gift of Life.

QUESTIONS and APPLICATION:

Applying God's Word to our Head (What does God want me to know?), to our Heart (What does God want me to desire/value?), and to our Hands (What does God want me to do?).

1. What is controlling our responses to our present circumstances? How is our knowledge of God effecting our daily decisions?
2. Why is it hard to embrace the certainty and diversity of trials with Joy? What does that reveal about our knowledge of God?
3. Read 1 Peter 1:3-8. Why are trials necessary?
4. What does FAITH enable us to know about our trials? What does FAITH cause us to long for the midst of our trials? What are you longing for in the midst of your present trial?
5. What keeps us from asking God for wisdom? Why do we struggle with doubts about God's goodness?
6. What does it mean to be double-minded and what is the result?
7. How do the trials of life help us regardless of our personal means?
8. What does it mean to be blessed? How are we blessed through trials?
9. Read Proverbs 19:3. Why are we so prone to doing this?
10. How are we lured and enticed by sin? How should our knowledge of God effect how we think about sin?
11. How should the knowledge of God (v. 17-18) direct our hearts/minds in response to our trials?