

LIVING HD



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WEEK 2

28 June - 2 July '21

WEEK 2 – YOUR FAITH WAS MADE FOR THIS

James 1: 2-18

²Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

⁹Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. ¹⁰But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. ¹¹For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

¹²Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

¹³When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

¹⁶Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

MONDAY – Reach Out to God



Psalm 91: 1 & 2 *Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*

The space in which we need to live in difficult times, is the space where we encounter Jesus.

Who is the first person you call when that devastating news comes? What is the first thing you do when that realisation collides with your brain?

Is it God? Is it Lord please help me?

At this moment we need to seek our God in faith. Faith believes in who God is and what He does. All the head knowledge we have of God is now being tested. And at this point of collision, we need to move that knowledge from our heads to our hearts and believe that God will do as He says.

Are you prepared for the trials that will come to you? And yes, not if but when. My own experience of tough trials brought home to me that if we want to accept “trials as pure joy”, we need to be prepared

for them. Familiarise yourself with Scripture verses of strength and comfort so that in that time of desperation you can recall them and find a sense of comfort. Nurture your relationship with God so that HE becomes the first person you call.

Then you will find a joy and peace in God while the storm wind harshly swings you around. Not happiness, but joy that God has got you. Without THIS knowledge, the trials will be anything but joyful or bearable.

Download the **YouVersion Bible App**. There are reading plans for any situation that you may have to face. Be prepared.

Joyful under trials shows and shapes the real you.



Prayer: Lord, in You I trust. Please give to me the strength to face difficult times and situations. Help me to truly believe that there is nothing that is beyond Your power. AMEN

TUESDAY – Where is Your Faith?



James 1: 6 & 7 *But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.*

Trials test our faith! And this produces steadfastness. Repeat often – **I know who my God is and He has got this.**

Faith is when you realise you cannot control the situation. Your only option is to let God take over. Faith begins where certainty ends. Have the courage to say “God I don’t know what to do.” A heart honestly surrendered to Him will not be ignored. He will give you what you NEED. Praying in faith means letting God navigate you through the trials.

“Do not doubt” says James – so hard to put into practice. So hard not to doubt that this Christian stuff is real. But it is real. Faith is real. God is real. Look to all the great Christian people that have gone through the ages; to the highly respected Christian men

and women today; and remember that this has gone on for more than 2000 years. If it wasn’t real, the ‘fad’ would not have survived. Or there are just so many coincidences in life.

1 Peter 1: 6 & 7 *In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—*

Let God shape you through your trials so that all we WANT to do is live for Him despite the hardships. This is the joy James talks about!

A life filled with faith means: *There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind.* (C S Lewis)



Prayer: Lord into Your hands I place my life. Show me the way that I should go. Teach me that I can always trust You. AMEN

WEDNESDAY – What are You Pursuing?



James 1: 9 – 11 *Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wildflower. For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.*

What are we running after? Are we running after things of this world with such vigour that we forget that we are finite beings?

James encourages us to pursue what is everlasting. Pursue God with all our mind, heart and soul; and regardless of the seasons in life, these things can never be taken away from us. When we set our hearts on earthly pleasures and riches they will never satisfy. Jesus wants us to pursue love: love our God and love our neighbour. Do the things that honour these commandments.

If we have set our lives to pursue Godly things, the trials and

difficulties of life will take on a new perspective. This is when we can truly say, as Paul said: *...for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances* (Phil 4: 11).

We can change our perspective on life by opening our spiritual eyes to see that our God really does walk with us through all circumstances; maturing and moulding us in Christ.

Perspective is everything. *Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face; and the things of the earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.*



Prayer: Lord show me how to change my perspective. When I am negative help me to see the path we have already walked together; when I am discouraged, help me to put my hope in You. When I feel the burden is too great, remind me that this is not the goal. Thank You Lord. AMEN

THURSDAY – We Have a Good Good Father



James 1: 17 *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*

Dwell on this thought – God is a good Father.

As we internalize this truth, we begin to absorb that God may allow our trials to run their course but He does not intentionally set out to hurt us.

From the beginning of time, He wanted us to have everything that was good. He still wants that. But He also knows that free choice, a sinful nature and even circumstances beyond our control will bring hard times into our lives. But God is good, He will minimize the impact.

Regardless of our situations, God is constantly saying “Come.” We need to find the trust to say “Ok Lord, over to You.” A great majority of people who have bungee jumped say it is the most exhilarating feeling ever. To me

the idea is terrifying! I would either have to be pushed off or find the courage to override the fear.

And so it is with letting God take control. Only once you leap will you truly know the benefit of trusting Him.

Remaining faithful and joyful in hard times, is to acknowledge that He is the giver of all good things in our life.

- What are you going through today? What are those situations that are weighing you down?
- Lay them at the feet of Jesus. Talk to Him now about them. Ask for His help to let go.



Prayer: Lord You are the giver of life and all things good. Into Your hands I place my struggles and ask for Your help to see it through. Give to me the wisdom and courage to walk this journey with You.
AMEN

FRIDAY – The End is Better Than We Can Imagine



Revelation 21: 3 *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.*

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”
(Corrie Ten Boom)

When you have reached out to God, stepped out in faith, realigned what you are pursuing and given everything to your good good Father, you will truly know that what lies ahead is better than what has gone before. It does not matter if the future is unknown and terrifying, you KNOW the God that holds it all together.

If you can keep your heart singing with praise – even if it is with a quivering voice – and overflowing with love for God, a peace will descend upon you. The trials will remain, but the anxiety will be gone.

All great achievements have been preceded by hard work, pain and despondency, why would the Christian journey be any

different? Nothing is achieved by giving up and running away. Sometimes there is simply no other way but THROUGH. And the way through is with God.

How do we do this? We need to spend time with God in stillness. Pray continually. Read the Bible and books of Christian authors. Let God into your pain and offer yourself up to being in God’s light. Say to yourself often “God has got this.”

Jesus will sit with us in the darkness until He says, “You are ready now”. *“With Jesus, even in our darkest moments the best remains and the very best is yet to be...”* (Corrie Ten Boom)

Jesus promised that we will be led into green pastures and streams, and ultimately into His eternal light and presence. You can trust His promises.



Prayer: [The Holy City - André Rieu - YouTube](#)