



NO NONSENSE CHRISTIANITY

Life Group Notes – Part 2 (How to profit from your problems)

- What sorts of trials were the early Christians facing? (Acts 8:1-3, 9:1-2)
- The early believers moved from happiness and contentment (Acts 2:42-47) to trial and tribulation. Do you recognise this in your own journey of faith?
- If you were writing to a friend who was going through tough times how would you begin your letter? Why do you think James begins in the way he does?
- James tells us that trials are inevitable (*when you*), unexpected (*fall into*) and varied (*various trials*). Has this been your experience?
- How do trials test our faith? When have you found it most difficult to remain a follower of Jesus?
- Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 12:7-8 "I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me." What was God's response and Paul's conclusion? (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)
- Dan said "God is more interested in building our character than making us comfortable" do you agree? Can you think of any examples from the bible or your own life?
- What was the early believer's response to the trials they faced? (Acts 8:4) and the result?
- "Victor Frankl, the Jewish psychologist who spent time in a Nazi concentration camp in Germany wrote "They stripped me naked. They took everything -- my wedding ring, watch. I stood there naked and all of a sudden realized at that moment that although they could take everything away from me -- my wife, my family, my possessions -- they could not take away my freedom to choose how I was going to respond." Why is our response to the trials we face so important?
- In verse 5 James says we should pray for wisdom. How does wisdom help us face the trials of life?
- What attitude is James advocating in verse 6?