Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. April 15, 2018

**Faith on Trial: Theology Lived Out Beyond the Walls**

**Key truth:** The test of genuine faith is how we respond under trials.

**Discover the Author:** James the bondservant. (John 7:1-5, ACTS 15:12-21, 1 Corinthians 15:7, Galatians 2:9)

1. The truth about trials.

 A. A working definition: Trials are events that come into your

 life uninvited, uninitiated and not caused by your own

 doing.

 B. Trials are unavoidable.

 C. Trials serve a purpose. James 1:1-3

 1. They validate us as genuine disciples of Jesus Christ.

 2. They shape our character and deepen our faith.

2. What to do when trials come:

 A. Determine to have joy no matter the circumstance.

 B. Ask God for insight regarding your trial.

 1. Gaining God’s perspective will allow you to respond in a

 way that strengthens your faith and brings glory to God.

 2. Don’t pray if you’re not going to believe God will answer.

 C. Don’t throw in the towel.

 1. You will never receive what God has for you with a

 quitter’s mentality.

3. Final thoughts: Everyone will experience hard times.

 A. Trials are no respecter of persons.

 1. The poor is exalted in his high position as being counted

 worthy to suffer for Jesus Christ.

 2. The rich is humbled by trials as it forces them to put their

 trust in God and not their wealth.

**Taking it beyond the walls:** Thank God for the trial and ask Him for wisdom to respond with joy and obedience.

**CONNECTION GROUP HOMEWORK**

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Read James 1:1-3: According to James, what should be a Christian’s attitude when facing trials? How often is this your attitude in your own hard times?

Why is perseverance important? What reward comes with persevering in the faith?

How can testing or trials actually strengthen a believer’s faith?

How do you define “wisdom”? How is it related to enduring trials?

How will God respond to us when we pray by faith for God’s wisdom?

Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10: The Apostle Paul was experiencing a tremendous trial in his life. What is his response to God? How did he gain insight and perseverance to endure the trial? Did his trial serve a spiritual purpose in his life?

Is there any situation in your life right now that you need to start praying more for God’s wisdom rather than just deliverance?

As you read the following verses what do you learn about how to gain wisdom, along with its benefits?

Proverbs 1:7

Proverbs 11:2

Proverbs 13:10

Proverbs 14:8