



# Just Grow Up!

James - A Manual for Maturity

Week 2—The Purpose for My Problems

1. Read James 1:2-6. Why should you consider it to be a joyful thing to have trials? Do you think trials will produce perseverance if you do not react to the trial the way God wants you to? What does perseverance produce? What is wisdom?
2. Pastor Rick said that problems are inevitable. Read 1 Peter 1:6-7. What reason is given in this passage for our hardships? Read 1 Peter 4:12-16. What type of suffering will not produce something good in us?
3. Pastor Rick said that the trials we face will purify our faith, what do you think that means? What would prevent them from purifying our faith?
4. In the message, four reasons were given as the cause of all of the problems in this world, what were they? Can you give an example of each type from your own experience? Which type do you feel is the hardest to endure? Why?
5. When you face problems, do you typically try to discern the purpose for them, why God would allow them to happen? How can we thrive through our problems when we cannot see how anything good can come out of them?
6. Sometimes people are called “control freaks”. What does that mean? Are you a “control freak”? When is it the hardest for you to remember that God is in control? What could you do in those situations to help you remember God is in control?

## ANSWERS

1. We should have joy in the middle of trials because God says that is how we develop perseverance. This will only happen if we respond to the trials the way God says we should. If we moan and groan and complain about our problems, we will not develop perseverance. The passage says that having perseverance will cause you to become mature and complete as a Christian. Wisdom is knowing the difference between what is right and what is wrong, the difference between what is good and what is the best, and then deciding to do what is best. It involves having knowledge, discernment, and determination.
2. 1 Peter 1 says that trials refine our faith and is what shows us if we even have faith. It is not until something bad happens and I have to rely on God for the answer that we can see how strong or weak our faith is. In 1 Peter 4 it says that we should never suffer because of sinful actions, that type of suffering does not produce godliness in our lives.
3. To purify means to eliminate that which corrupts something. Trials help to remove from our lives the things that are not good and cause our faith to become stronger. What prevents trials from purifying our faith is when we do not respond to them correctly but instead see ourselves as a victim of our circumstances.
4. The four causes of problems in this world are: A. We live on a broken planet B. The actions of sinful people C. Being disciplined by our heavenly father D. The stupidity of our own decisions. An example of A could be a natural disaster, which happens because of the curse that came upon the earth when Adam and Eve sinned. An example of B could be I die because someone murders me. An example of C can be anything that God allows or does in my life as a result of my disobedience to Him, it could be anything. An example of D is if I went to prison because I stole something.
5. The way to thrive would be to always trust that even when we cannot see how something could be good, God can cause anything that happens to us turn out for our good. Read the promise in Romans 8:28.
6. A “control freak” is someone who cannot be comfortable if they are not in control of all of the circumstances in their lives. They are most unhappy when things happen to them that are beyond their control.