

# ENDURANCE

finding hope & strength in life's troubles

## WEEK 5 - BECAUSE IT LEADS TO JOY OVERVIEW

We end this series with a similar sentiment with which we began it: the troubles we face can be an opportunity for joy(!). This time, however, the person saying these words is none other than James, the leader of the church in Jerusalem, and no stranger to hardships himself. Why does James believe our response to troubles should lead us to joy? Because, according to him, troubles grow our *hypomonē*. And when our endurance has grown, our faith can fully develop.

Do you want true joy this year? It won't be found in money or vacations or social media. True joy comes from the knowledge that even in hardships, we are squarely within the presence of our loving God. This is why we endure. Because it's not up to us. It is God who carries us through.

*Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.*

**James 1:2-3**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever wrestled with James 1:2, finding joy in troubles, as Maron explained? If so, what was the circumstance?
2. How can joy be a voluntary act of the will?
3. Read James 1:2-4.
  - a. What are some of the *troubles* (*peirasmos*) James refers to?
  - b. Describe how you will be *perfect* (*teleios*).
  - c. How could it be helpful to remember that your endurance is *still growing*?
  - d. What might happen if someone chose to *not* let their endurance grow?
4. What kind of results have you experienced when you took the opportunity and decided to choose joy? (see also 1 Peter 1:6)
5. Describe the ultimate example of *hypomonē* (Hebrews 12:1-3).
6. What truths will you take with you from this series that will help you endure?

Prayer

*Dear Father, thank you for being with us always and reminding us to endure. Thank you for your promises. Please help us to develop hypomonē as we follow you. We love you. In Jesus' name we pray.*