



Guide

8/9 - James 1:1-4

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week? Any new life updates? How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Practically, is there any individual or family that needs encouragement from us as a group?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?
2. Let's read our primary text. James identifies himself simply as "a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" (v. 1). What does this title suggest about his view of himself and his authority?
3. Verse 1 is addressed to "the twelve tribes in the Dispersion." Who exactly is James addressing and how do you think they would have received verse 2?
4. James says to "count it all joy" when we meet trials (v. 2). Is joy the same thing as happiness here? How would you explain the difference to someone new to faith? To your kids?
5. Why do you think James calls trials "various kinds" rather than naming specific examples? What kinds of trials are you facing right now?
6. Verse 3 gives a reason for verse 2's command: "the testing of your faith produces steadfastness." How does knowing this reason change the way you might respond to a trial?
7. Verse 4 says to "let steadfastness have its full effect." What does it look like to let this process finish rather than cut it short?
8. The goal in verse 4 is to be "perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." What do you think James means by this. Is it about moral perfection, or something else?
9. Any other thoughts you would like to share before we wrap up this text?

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- *Internal*: Did you make time to disciple your family this week? Pray with them?
- *External*: Is your life marked by joy/contentment? Are you prepared to share the gospel if the Holy Spirit prompted? Is the name of Jesus on your lips in your day-to-day activity?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today," ... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group, generally? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives, putting to death sinful desires.