

**JAMES: SHOE-LEATHER GOSPEL**  
**Southside Baptist Church**  
**Wednesday Night Bible Study- Week 2**  
**“Faith in the Midst of Trials” James 1: 1-11**  
**Dr. Josh Wilson**

**I. Trials will c\_\_\_\_\_ . (v.2)**

- Trials are unavoidable. (v.2)
- Trials are often u\_\_\_\_\_ . (v.2b)
- Trials are u\_\_\_\_\_ from one person to the next. (v.2c)

**II. Trials are o\_\_\_\_\_ for God to work in your life. (vv.3-4)**

- The way we respond in the midst of trials reveals whether our faith is g\_\_\_\_\_ or not.

Joni Erikson Tada: “Suffering (trials) provide the gym equipment on which my faith can be exercised. The weaker I am, the harder I must lean on God’s grace; the harder I lean on Him, the stronger I discover Him to be, and the bolder my testimony to his grace.”

- Trials serve many different purposes in the life of a Christian.  
*(See “Eight Purposes of Trails” by Dr. John MacArthur Handout)*

**III. Our p\_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of a trial is the key to experiencing joy through it.**

- “Consider it pure joy”: a command; “complete joy”, “total joy”, sheer joy”, “count it all joy”
- A l\_\_\_\_\_ person has no way of looking upon a trial with joy, but only a follower of Jesus Christ. We have the Holy Spirit dwelling inside us providing the joy.

Warren Wiersbe: “Our values determine our evaluations. If we value comfort more than character, then trials will upset us. If we value material and physical more than spiritual, we will not be able to ‘count it all joy’. If we only live for the present and forget the future, the trials will make us bitter, not better.”

**IV. Trials are at the c\_\_\_\_\_ of the Christian life because they were at the center of Jesus’ life too.**

“fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith. **For the joy set before Him he endured the cross**, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2