

# Developing A Faith That Works

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## Scripture

### James 1:1-11

<sup>1</sup>James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:  
Greetings.

### Trials and Temptations

<sup>2</sup>Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup>because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. <sup>4</sup>Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup>If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup>But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup>he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

<sup>9</sup>The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. <sup>10</sup>But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. <sup>11</sup>For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.

## Central Truth

The quality of your life will be determined by the wisdom or foolishness of your decisions.

## Engage

Read out loud and discuss the Central Truth above. What does this statement mean to you?  
In what ways have your decisions (wise and foolish) influenced the quality of your life?

## Discuss

1. We all have problems that occur in our life. Discuss a problem that has happened in your life. Was the problem resolved? Did you learn from this problem in any way?

2. Have you experienced an unexpected or unpredictable problem in your life? Share the circumstances and how your faith was strengthened by the trial.
3. Problems are purposeful. Discuss some of the positives that have emerged from your problems and how they have helped you grow in your faith and relationship with God.
4. Have you ever prayed for help or guidance during a problem or situation but did not have faith or believe that God would answer it? What was the outcome of that situation?
5. When we lack the wisdom to find answers or solutions to our problems we are to ask God for help. When have you asked God for help and did he answer your prayer or request. Was your prayer about a need or a want?
6. When our request for help is answered it is because it is in the center of God's will and not a selfish want of ours. How have you seen God give continually, generously, or without finding fault based on your request?
7. What are some ways we can prepare ourselves for the difficult times and problems that are inevitable in our life?

## Challenge

Knowing scripture is sure way to keep the joy in your life when problems occur. Search out and write down 3–5 scriptures that you can start to memorize that can be of help to you in times of trials. Be prepared to share these next week. Continue this process week to week and build up an arsenal of scripture to keep the joy in your life through all circumstances.

## Other Passages Cited

Job 23:10  
James 1:22–25  
Proverbs 11:1–2  
Hebrews 11:6  
Ephesians 3:20