

Pressure Points Bible Study I: The Pressure of Trials – James 1: 1-4

10-2-2018

Things to Ponder

- 1) Do you think pressure is good, bad or neutral?

- 2) Whose job is more difficult during a trial: the defense or the prosecution? Why do you feel this way?

Going Deeper

- 1) The term translated as “slave” in most English translations of verse 1 can also be used for someone who binds themselves to another on purpose. Do you think James, the brother of Jesus, is saying he’s an unwilling servant of God or that he’s chosen to be a servant of God? Why do you feel this way?

- 2) During trials the various sides try to prove something to a judge, a jury or both. When God allows people of faith go through trials, God and Satan are each trying to prove something two groups as well. They are each trying to prove something to the faithful and to those who haven’t decided to become faithful or not. What do you think God is trying to prove to each group?

To the faithful....

To the undecided...

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3) What do you think Satan is trying to prove to each of the groups in question 2?

To the faithful....

To the undecided...

4) God promises that the testing of our faith will lead to a mature faith that endures. How has God’s promise been fulfilled in your life?

5) James tells the believers who have been forced to scatter all over the Greek world to view the many trials they’re experiencing because they are believers as opportunities to be joyful when being joyful is particularly hard. What do you do to encourage yourself to choose joy while you’re going through a trial of your faith?
