

# **Through the Trials**

## **James 1:2-18**

**Introduction: Why do we suffer and how can we persevere through it?**

### **I. Two case studies in perseverance.**

#### **A. The woman with a bleeding disorder. (Mark 5:24-34)**

- 1. She had suffered much, financially, physically, and emotionally.**
- 2. She demonstrated great faith that Christ could heal her.**
- 3. She persevered and was healed.**

#### **B. Paul's "thorn in the flesh" (II Cor. 12:1-10)**

- 1. He asked God 3 times to remove the thorn.**
- 2. God's answer was, "My grace is sufficient for you."**
- 3. Paul persevered but was not healed.**

#### **C. Purpose in suffering**

- 1. God knows what we need.**
- 2. Paul was able to accept his "thorn" because God had shown him why he had to have it.**

### **II. Why and how we should we persevere?**

#### **A. To reach spiritual maturity. (v.4)**

- 1. We should want to grow up spiritually and not remain childlike.**
- 2. Too many Christians are satisfied with their level of maturity.**

#### **B. Do not doubt. (v.6)**

- 1. Doubt is not an easy excuse for why God did not answer.**
- 2. We must believe God can do anything we ask, not will do anything we ask.**

### **III. What is God's role in our suffering?**

#### **A. Does God tempt us?**

- 1. Sin cannot exist with God and therefore He cannot use sinful temptation against us.**
- 2. He allows temptation, but only as much as we can stand. (I Cor. 10:13)**

**3. God knows how much we can handle better than we do.**

**B. What does come from God?**

**1. "Good and perfect gifts" (v.17)**

**2. All the good things in my life have been given to me from God.**

**Conclusion: By persevering through trials and temptations we can; gain the crown of life God promised us, become mature and complete, and become an acceptable sacrifice to God.**