



Living in limbo land #4
Persevering in the new normal
James 1:1-7

New Testament authors were not strangers to

_____.

1. God values _____ faith.

'James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds.' James 1:1-2 NIV

Trials test our _____ in God.

'Because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.' James 1:3 NIV

2. God values the _____ of faith.

'Perseverance must finish its work.' James 1:4 NIV

3. God values _____ faith.

'Perseverance must finish its work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.' James 1:4 NIV

4. God values _____ faith.

'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.' James 1:5 NIV

5. God values _____ faith.

'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.' James 1:6 NIV

'That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord.' James 1:7 NIV

Heavenly Father, I believe you will use this until you choose to remove this. Grant me the wisdom to see as you see and the strength to do as you say. Amen.



Watch and listen to the message again, or an archived message by going to www.youtube.com/cowplainchurch.



SMALL GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION

Each week we will produce the Talk It Over sermon discussion questions, as we would do normally. But as these aren't normal times, we encourage you to use the Talk It Over sermon discussion questions in a different way. Here are some suggestions:

- Immediately after the online experience has ended, grab a cuppa and then sit and discuss the questions with your husband/wife/family. If you are on your own, arrange to ring another person and chat through the questions over the phone or Skype etc.
- If you are able, meet virtually as a small group through the various free online conference resources such as Microsoft teams, Skype, Zoom etc.
- Personally, take some time through the week to quietly reflect and go through the questions on your own and apply the message to your life.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you usually handle sudden changes in your schedule? Do you go with the flow, or does the unexpected stress you out?
2. Think about a time in your own life or the life of someone you know when good eventually came from adversity. How did that event influence your faith?
3. During the message, Phill said, *"Faith that gets a yes from God is nothing compared to faith that gets no answer or no for an answer but endures anyway."* How does that statement challenge what you believe (or want to believe) about faith? What is comforting about that statement?
4. Read James 1:1–7. Do you think it's realistic to be able to consider your trials "pure joy"? Why or why not? How would a perspective like that change your relationship with God? How might it change the way you deal with your circumstances?
5. Do you agree with the idea that spiritual maturity has less to do with what you know and more with how you trust God and persevere in the face of adversity? Why or why not?
6. As you think about the adversity you face right now, what is one thing you can do to "let perseverance finish its work"? If you choose to "endure to mature," how might your current circumstances grow your faith? How can other Christians support you?