

Practical Faith – James

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Instructions: Read the text of the Bible, and answer each of these questions to help you think through the meaning and application of the passage.

Read James 1:1-4

1. Describe our instinctive, human reaction when we realize we are overwhelmed by trouble: _____
2. How effective is this reaction in changing the problem or making us a better person? _____
3. The word for “count” means “to control by counseling” and is related to the idea of “leadership of the thoughts.” How do we “lead our thoughts” and “control our thoughts with counseling” during times of trouble? _____
4. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,”* (NKJV) How do we reject (cast down) improper thoughts and control (bring captive) our thoughts for Christ? _____
5. Philippians 4:8-9 *“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy -- meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”* (NKJV)
6. What role does prayer play in taking control of your thoughts? _____
7. Why do we fail to endure the trouble in our life? _____
8. If we pray and ask God to take it away--and He does not--what should our attitude be? _____
9. The phrase “all joy” means “cheerfulness” and “patience” means “cheerful endurance.” How can we be genuinely happy during all of this trouble? _____
10. What would that look like if we lived it out? _____
11. In verse 3, “knowing” means “something you know from learning.” What is it that we are learning? _____
12. How does the “testing” of our faith “produce” or “complete” endurance in our life? _____
13. How do we let God finish the work of patience and endurance? _____
14. What role does faith play? _____
15. Becoming “perfect” refers to maturity. The goal of the trouble is to grow us up and make us mature enough to rise above the trouble. Is that worth the trouble? Why? _____

The end result of the trouble that God allows is that we become more like Him by experiencing it and maintaining our joy and faith in Him.