

THE LIFE GIVING TRIAL

1. Read James 1:1–4. How do you normally feel and respond when you have to face a trial?
2. How does James tell those scattered in the world to respond to trials? (verse 2)
3. Why should we respond like this?
4. What progression of the Christian life does James describe in verses 3–4?
5. What James says in verses 3–4 and similar ideas are repeated over and over in Scripture. Read the following verses and briefly write down what each says about trials and suffering:

Matthew 5:11–12:

Romans 5:3–5:

Hebrews 2:10:

Hebrews 12:11:

1 Peter 1:6–7:

6. What can we conclude from all these passages?
7. Suffering is apparently *the* way in which God produces perseverance and maturity in us. Why do you think trials are so effective at this and nothing else is so effective? (*Optional*: See 2 Corinthians 1:8–9; 12:7–10)
8. What is “perseverance” (verse 3)? Look it up in a dictionary if you can’t give a clear definition.