

# Going Deeper

## 5- Day Devotional

### Week 2, Day 1: The Testing Ground of Faith

#### Verse of the Day

James 1:2-4

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.”

#### Primary Focus Statement

God uses every trial as a testing ground to transform your faith from something you say into something you live.

#### Devotional Teaching

When trials surround us, our instinctive response is emotional. Fear rises. Anxiety takes over. Frustration builds. Sadness settles in. That is the natural response of the flesh when life presses in on us. But James interrupts that instinct with a command that feels almost offensive at first glance. Count it all joy.

This is not a call to deny reality. This is not pretending that pain is not painful. This is not spiritual avoidance. This is a call to see reality through a different lens. A God-centered lens.

James is teaching us that every trial is a testing ground. It is the place where your faith is no longer theoretical. It is no longer what you say in a Bible study or post online. It becomes real. It becomes lived out. Trials reveal what is actually inside of you.

You may say you trust God, but a trial reveals whether that trust is real or conditional. You may say God is your provider, but pressure around finances reveals whether you believe that or not. You may say God is in control, but uncertainty reveals whether you will surrender or strive.

The testing of your faith is not God abandoning you. It is God working in you. He is refining. He is exposing. He is strengthening. He is producing something in you that cannot be formed any other way.

Today, when emotions rise, do not rush past the moment. Stop. Acknowledge God is present. Recognize that this moment is not random. Ask Him what He is doing in you through it. This is where transformation begins.

## **Reflection**

What trial are you currently facing right now?

What emotions rise to the surface when you think about it?

What does this trial reveal about what you truly believe about God?

Are you allowing your emotions to lead, or are you pausing to seek God in it?

## **Action Step**

When a difficult moment comes today, pause before reacting and pray, “God, what are You doing in me through this?”