Letter of James

*Session 1: James 1: 1-28*

**This week’s pearl**: James 1:2-3: “Count it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.”

Questions:

1. James writes to the 12 tribes in the Dispersion. In what sense does our spiritual state parallel those early believers who were in the “Dispersion?”
2. With what attitude does James say we should meet trials? Record the dictionary meaning of the word he uses to describe that attitude.

2b. What is his reasoning? How is this possible?

2c. What does J say about people who endure trials? Why?

2d. Read verse 12. What does James say about the one who endures trials and why?

1. St Peter writes to the same audiences shortly after James. Read 1 Pt 1:3-9. What does Peter say is our grounds for rejoicing?
2. What additional source of help does James speak of to endure trials? Where from?
   1. What attitude is needed to receive this help, and why is this attitude so important? See 1 Cor 2:14 and Wis 1: 1-4
3. Read Prov 2: 1-5. In James 1:5 he writes about value of asking God for Wisdom. According to Solomon, what is also needed?
4. Prov is divided into 31 chapters. It can be read a chapter a day for a month. Find the chapter corresponding to today’s date and read it praying that God speaks to you. What is a way you can act on it?
5. In James 1:9-10, what heavenly perspective does James provided in these verses. If help is needed see James 2:5.
6. In verses 12-15, James looks at temptations. What does James say is their source? Explain the progression from desire to death laid out in vs. 14-15.
7. Read the Catechism of the Church 1264. What is concupiscence? What advice is given to overcome it?
8. Read Mt 4:1-11. With what powerful weapon does Jesus resist Satan?
9. Sometimes we can feel temptations overwhelm us. Read 1 Cor 10:13 and name what encouragement the passage contains.
10. Read vs. 16-18. What difference does it make to know God as He is described?

*Meditation Questions:*

1. What situation are you facing that is getting you down? How can you “count it all joy” so as to better endure it?
2. What “pearl of wisdom from this session on James speaks most to you and why? Write it down and on the back of Pearls card when you get your book as a reminder to put it into practice.
3. As God to give you the wisdom and steadfastness you need to become “a doer of the Word.”