



The Pathway to Spiritual Maturity!

September 17, 2023 – James 1:2-4
Pastor Jon Pickens

The Pathway to Spiritual Maturity

1. James commands us consider the **testing** of our **faith** as pure joy.

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

2. The testing of our faith is necessary to produce in us an **enduring** trust in God.

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

3. An enduring trust is the **secret sauce** for spiritual maturity!

*And let steadfastness have **its full effect**, that you may be **perfect and complete**, lacking in nothing.*

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you think of times in your life that you were tempted to give up on God or give in to your own desires? Explain
2. What seems more of a struggle when our faith is tested, to give up on God or to give in to our own desires? Why do you think that is?
3. What does an enduring trust look like in your life right now?
4. In what ways can you encourage other brothers and sisters in Christ towards an enduring trust in God?
5. What action are you going to take as a result of what God's Word teaches?

Next Steps:

1. If you would like to become a follower of Jesus, please let us know. Pastor Jon will be down front after the service and would love to connect.
2. If you are interested in baptism, let Pastor Jon know in person or email him at pj@fbclowell.org.
3. Read the Bible with us to know God and respond to Him! Below is our current schedule.

September 2023 (Two Year Reading Plan, Month 21)			
Week 1 Starting Sept 4	Week 2 Starting Sept 11	Week 3 Starting Sept 18	Week 4 Starting Sept 25
Day 1: Luke 21	Day 1: John 4-5	Day 1: John 11	Day 1: John 20-21
Day 2: Luke 22-23	Day 2: John 6	Day 2: John 12-13	Day 2: Acts 1
Day 3: Luke 24	Day 3: John 7	Day 3: John 14-15	Day 3: Acts 2-3
Day 4: John 1-2	Day 4: John 8	Day 4: John 16-17	Day 4: Acts 4
Day 5: John 3	Day 5: John 9-10	Day 5: John 18-19	Day 5: Acts 5-6
¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.			
¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.			
Colossians 1:17-18 (NIV)			

What action are you going to take as a result of what God's Word teaches?