The Here, There and Everywhere offering Nov. 26th

"Continuing the Pursuit!"
Sunday, December 3



2017 MESSAGE SERIES

38 ESSENTIAL PASSAGES IN UNDERSTANDING GOD'S STORY, THEIR STORY, & YOUR STORY.



WAL*MART









As Christians...

How do we show others the great value of Jesus to our lives?







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James 1:1-18

Four experiences I can have that show the great value of Jesus in my life

Big Idea...

Nothing draws out the value of Jesus in a life like difficulty.

Author: James

Recipients: *Persecuted Jewish Christians*.

Purpose: James is encouraging Christians to stay faithful to Jesus in the face of testing and trials.

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Nothing draws out the value of Jesus in a life like difficulty.

Is life....

Easy or Hard



James 1:1-18

Four experiences I can have that show the great value of Jesus in my life

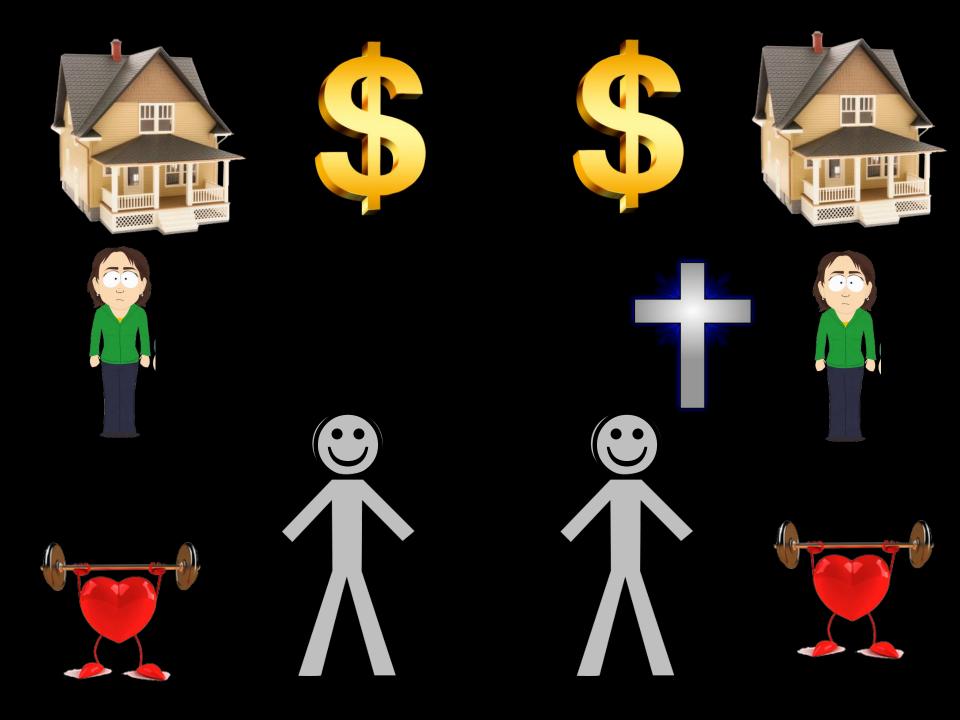
God given JOY in the face of pain.

"The Christian's joy is essentially the enjoyment of our God, and our relationship with him."

| Serry Bridges | Serry Bridges

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13





"The lessons I have learned about God have been so satisfying that I wouldn't give back this wheel chair for anything!"

Joni Erickson Tada

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have <u>learned</u> the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Phil 4: 12-13

2. Maturity in the midst of struggle.

"Christian maturity according to James is doing right as God defines right no matter what the cost and no matter how long."

"Part of our struggle with God working spiritual maturity into our lives is that we often fail to agree with God how little we have of it (maturity) and how much we need it."

D. MOO

"American Culture excels at many things one of which is the desire to rid or overt any kind of difficulty from our lives. We truly are a comfort rich culture."

Joe Robinson

Perseverance =

Our deliberate choice to stay faithful to God's will in difficult situations knowing that God is working for our good and his glory.



Wisdom in the midst of testing.

Wisdom is seeing life from God's perspective.

I THINK EVERYBODY SHOULD GET **RICH AND FAMOUS AND** DO EVERYTHING THEY EVER DREAMED OF SO THEY CAN SEE THAT IT'S NOT THE ANSWER.

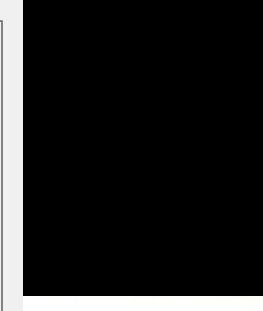
- JIM CARREY



If God would concede me His omnipotence for 24 hours, you would see how many changes I would make in the world. But if He gave me His wisdom too, I would leave things as they are.

Jacques-Marie-Louis Monsabre











4. Blessing according to God promises.

"But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life."

Rev. 2:10

What next step can I take...

Mine it: the book of James.

Count it: all your reasons for joy.