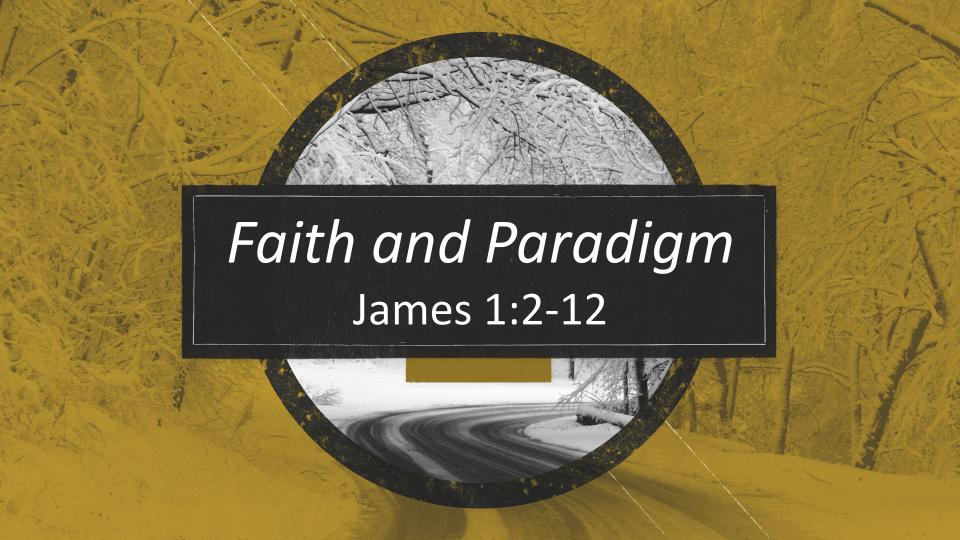


Have you ever been ...?

- accused of something you didn't do?
- persecuted for your faith?
- beaten to a parking spot at the mall?
- disappointed? Frustrated?

Why do these things happen to us?

How should we respond to them?



What does 'Paradigm' mean?

- 'Paradigm' a typical example or pattern; a model
- 'Paradigm Shift' a fundamental change in approach or underlying assumptions

Why talk about 'Paradigm'?

- As human beings we have a natural bent toward self-preservation, ease, comfort, control, etc.
- We tend to seek to avoid or change disagreeable circumstances

Disagreeable Circumstances?

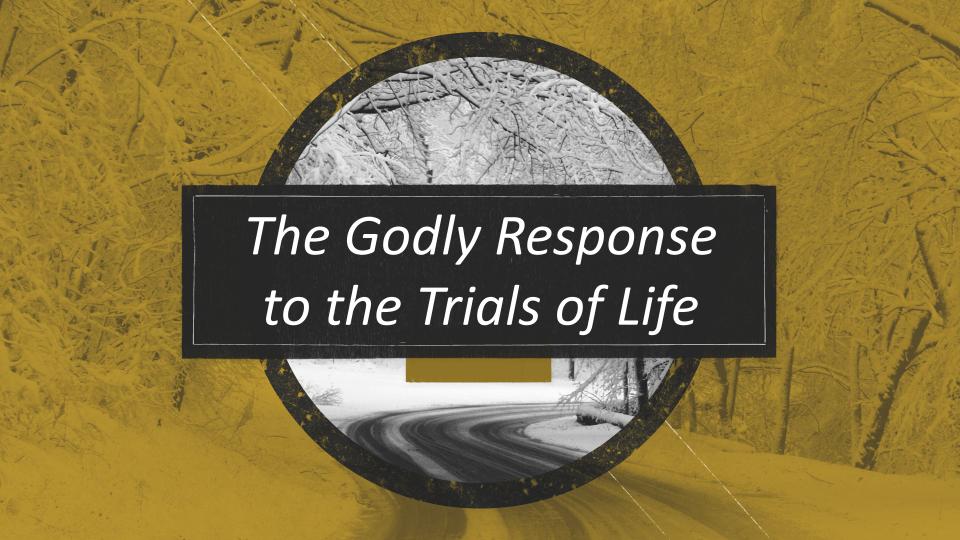
- James tells us that we WILL face trials in this life
 - —"When" not "if" expect them at any time
 - -1 Peter 4:12-19

What are trials?

- Various trials
 - -Multi-colored; variegated
 - -Joseph's coat (Gen. 37:3 LXX)
 - -diverse; the whole spectrum

What are trials?

- Various <u>trials</u>
 - -To attempt or ascertain
 - To assess or determine the character or quality of a thing
 - "Let Daddy try it first."



James 1:2-12

- 1. Response (2)
- 2. Reason (3)
- 3. Result (4)
- 4. Resource (5-8)
- 5. Reward (12)

1. Response (2)

- Consider it all joy
 - -Consider: To think, esteem, regard
 - -All: pure, unadulterated, unmixed
 - –Joy: not pleasure, but settled and settling satisfaction

1. Response (2)

- Consider it all joy
 - -Not stoicism; passiveness; faking
 - -"Make a conscious decision to adopt the attitude that trials are a wholly joyful thing"

- Knowing that trials are tests
 - -Regardless of who, what, how,...
 - -Regardless of intent, severity, etc.
 - –Paradigm shift!

- The <u>testing</u> of your faith produces endurance
 - —The act of trying or proving (3)
 - -The results or proof after testing (12; see also 1 Pet. 1:6-7)

- The testing of <u>your faith</u> produces endurance
 - -Theme of the epistle
 - -Foundation of the new life (2:1)
 - -Must be lived out! (2:14)

- The testing of your faith <u>produces</u> endurance
 - –Present tense: "is working to produce"
 - Testing is a refining process

- The testing of your faith produces endurance
 - -To remain under (i.e. a heavy load)
 - —Constancy, tenacity, fortitude, staying-power, stick-to-itiveness

- The testing of your faith produces endurance
 - -Rom. 5:1-5; Heb. 10:32-39; 12:1-3
 - -Heb. 12:7 for discipline

Endurance

"It is not a passive attitude of quiet submission or resignation, but rather, a brave manliness which confronts the difficulties and contends against them." - D. Edmond Hiebert

- Let endurance have its perfect result
 - —Endurance is not the goal but a means to an end (just ask a coach)
 - -God is working in you—submit to it
 - -"Do you trust Me?" (Heb. 11:19)

- That you may be <u>perfect</u>
 - -Mature; having achieved its end
 - -Matt. 5:48; 1 Cor. 2:6; Phil. 3:15; Heb. 5:11-14

- That you may be <u>complete</u>
 - -Wholeness; soundness; possessing all its allotted parts
 - Having all the virtues that characterize a mature believer

- That you may be <u>lacking in nothing</u>
 - –Covering all aspects
 - –Various trials: no area of character is left unaddressed

- Trials test our faith, exposing to us where we are strong and where we are weak
- How we respond to trials reveals what we truly believe, and how much we truly believe it (see John 6:4-7)

- Spiritual maturity is developed by our attitude and actions in the trials of life
- Bearing up under trials produces tenacity, which spurs us on toward maturity and wholeness
- God is faithful! (1 Cor. 10:13)