**God’s Preferred Method of Perfection**

**Sermon Based Discussion (June 12, 2016)**

**Dispersed Faith (James 2016)**

**WARM UP**

1. What is one physical activity or sport that you struggle to have endurance in? (For example, ice skating, doing ‘burpies’, swimming, etc.) Explain your answer.

*We all probably can think of physical activities we may not enjoy. Perhaps we just don’t want to endure or deal with certain exercises. Well, most of us probably don’t relish the idea of going through personal tests and trials in life. But in the wisdom of God, trials play a vital role in growing a person into maturity.*

*In this session, we are instructed to count it all joy when we face various trials. We’ll consider the reason behind this strange teaching.*

**INTO THE BIBLE (Read James 1:1-12)**

1. What are the steps that lead from trials to spiritual maturity?
2. What does it mean for a person in “lowly” (poor) circumstances to boast in his “exaltation” (high place), and for a rich person to boast in his “humiliation”?
3. What does it mean for a Christian to ask God for wisdom “in faith, with no doubting”? Does this mean that God will only give us wisdom if we have complete faith?

**UNDERSTANDING**

1. Why should a Christ-follower have joy in the midst of trials?
2. How is patience/steadfastness (v.3, 4) the key to every other spiritual blessing and maturity?

**DIFFERENCE**

1. In your experience, do people usually seek wisdom to learn *from* a trial or wisdom to get *through* the trial? What’s the difference between the two?
2. Think of the testings or trials you are facing. Share about one such trial. How might God be using this trial to test your faith and produce endurance?

**APPLICATION**

1. This week, pray for a particular trial that tests your faith every day. But instead of praying for strength or deliverance, ask God for wisdom to learn and mature from this trial.