

# **Grumble or Grow**

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**GILEAD BIBLE CHURCH**

- It took only one night for Israel to leave Egypt.
- But it took forty years for Egypt to leave Israel!



- **The number one obstacle of spiritual growth was Israel's constant "grumbling" in the wilderness...**



- Over a period forty years, God provided for their needs, but still Israel grumbled and grumbled...



## ■ When Facing the Red Sea, Ex.14



## ■ When No Food to Eat, Ex.16



## ■ When No Water to Drink, Ex.15



# ■ When Eating Manna, Num.21





## ■ When Impatient, Ex.32



- Let us consider what James has to say about growing!



**1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.**

- Israel was scattered (Gk. *diaspora*)



***2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,***

- ***“Pure joy,”*** is not our first reaction whenever we face trials!

**Consider it pure joy,  
MY BROTHERS  
AND SISTERS,  
whenever you face  
trials of many kinds**  
James 1:2

***3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.***

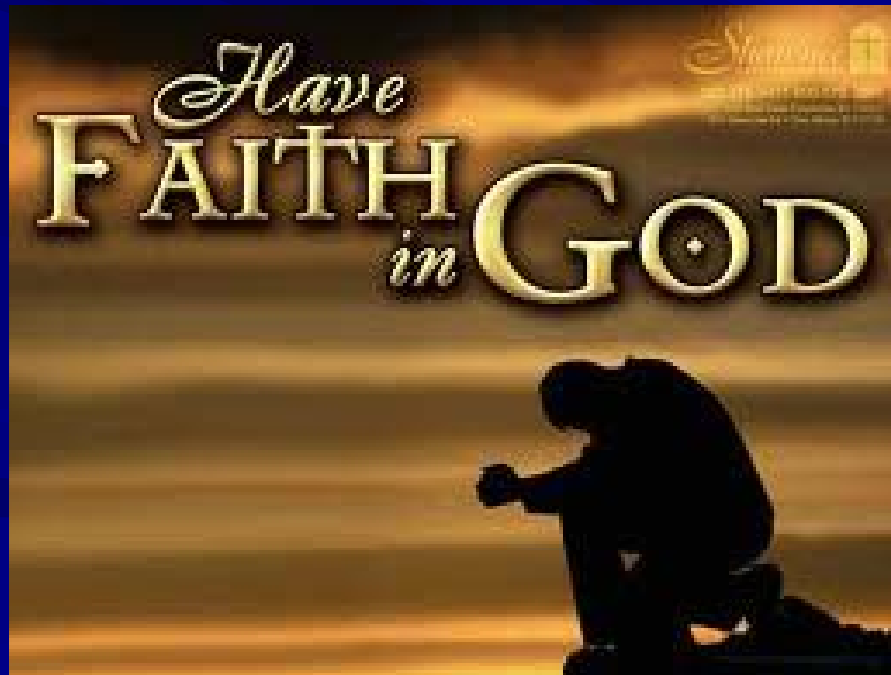
- **James gives us a logical reason why we should all be joyful!**



**P**erseverance

***4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.***

- **And when one perseveres, our faith becomes more mature and complete!**



***5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.***

- **This spiritual wisdom is available to you, but there is a catch.**



***6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.***

- **And when you ask, you ask in confident faith.**





***7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.***

- **If one does not ask in faith, they shouldn't be surprised if they don't receive an answered prayer.**



***8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.***

- ***A double-minded person is non-committal towards God.***



- **James 4:4, *Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.***



- When we are tested--let us abstain from grumbling as is our want!
- When grumbling grows, faith decreases.
- However, when faith grows, grumbling decreases.



*Faith*