

Title: Pressure Test

Text: James 1:1-12

Target: What feels like it's breaking you may be what God is using to bless you greatly.

I. **Refocus your Perspective of Pain:** *"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,"* (James 1:2)

A. **Count it Joy:** *"all joy"*

B. **Creates Steadfastness:** *"for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness."* (Vs. 3)

C. **Consider it Necessary:** *"And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."* (Vs. 4)

II. **Request Wisdom in Pain:** *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."* (Vs. 5)

A. **Believe in Faith:** *"But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind."* (Vs. 6)

B. **Don't be Swayed:** *"For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."* (Vs. 7-8)

III. **Reconsider What Matters in Pain:**

A. **Status is Temporary:** *"Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation,"* (Vs. 9)

B. **Success is Temporary:** *"and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away."* (Vs. 10)

C. **Stuff is Temporary:** *"For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits."* (Vs. 11)

IV. **Remain Faithful Through Pain:** *"Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him."* (Vs. 12)

A. **Don't Give Up:** *"remains"*

B. **Get the Crown:** *"crown of life"*

Takeaway: How do I get out of this? Vs. What do you want me to get out of this?