

Proper View of Prayer

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: James 1.
- B. We ought to consider trials joy because tests help to perfect us.
- C. There needs to be an awareness of need in prayer.

II. Persistence. (James 1:5-8)

- A. The man who does not pray in faith is double-minded. He has “two minds.”
- B. The bottom line of human experience is the character of God. We must be convinced that God is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do. (Romans 4:20-21)
- C. The promises of God are based on His character. (Romans 15:13)
- D. The basis of persistence is focusing on God’s character. We eliminate double mindedness by focusing on God’s promises. (II Chronicles 6:17)

III. Perspective. (James 1:16-18)

- A. Good cannot be defined apart from God. Every good gift is from God.
- B. God cannot condemn the believer in Christ.

IV. Patience. (James 5:13-18)

- A. There are many times of pain in which we are called to pray.
- B. Job learned that God was not the source of his pain—Satan was.
- C. Elijah found victory through patience.

Application questions:

1. What trials have you faced that have been difficult to consider joy?

2. How does our prayer life reflect our view of God? Explain.

3. How can you encourage others in suffering based upon the passages we have studied today? Explain.
