**When Life throws you a Curve Ball.**

“Finding Joy in the midst of suffering.”

**Text**: **James 1:2-4**, “2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” **English Standard Version**

*In the midst of a trial*...

**Point #1**: **Don’t** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **v.2**

*In the midst of a trial*...

**Point #2**: **Remember** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **v.3**

*In the midst of a trial*...

**Point #3**: **Submit** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ V.4

**Corollary Verses**: Acts 8; Philippians 4:4; Galatians 5:22-25; 2 Corinthians 8:1; and Romans 5:3-5.

**Application Questions**
These questions are provided for your further study and application of today’s sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to the questions listed below will assist you in gaining a better understanding of the point of this passage. Please be prepared to discuss your answers with your Home Fellowship Groups.

1.) Read **John 16:33**; **2 Timothy 3:12**; **Acts 14:22**; and **1 Peter 5:10** then answer the following questions. When you first became a believer, did you know that trials and suffering were going to be part of the Christian experience? Why is it important to expect trials in your life? In Acts 14:22, Paul warned believers that they will face many trials. Yet, even during his intense trials and suffering Paul did not waver. Does this encourage you or frighten you? What is the context of Acts 14:22?

2.) Read **Philippians 4:4** and **Galatians 5:22-25** then answer the following questions. What does your circumstances have to do with experiencing joy? How it is possible to experience joy during a time of pain and suffering? Who are we supposed to rejoice in? What does that have to say about the source and quality of our joy? Trials have the potential to make you either bitter or better. According to Galatians 5 what is the secret to becoming better through trials and not bitter?

3.) Read **2 Corinthians 8:1-2** then answer the following questions. The churches in Macedonia were experiencing extreme trials and hardships. Through what activity did they experience an abundance of joy? Do you believe that this would be true today as it was back then? How can serving others in bring about joy in your life?

4.) Read **Romans 5:3-5** then answer the following questions. Write out all the benefits of trials and suffering described in this passage. Have you personally experienced these qualities increasing in your life throughout your Christian experience? Share with the group.