

## “Singing the Blues in a Major Key”

### *Sermon Discussion Questions on James 1:1-4*

**Note:** *To give & receive the greatest benefit from this discussion, please review your own sermon notes, read & reflect on these discussion questions in advance.*

1. What part of the introductory material did you find particularly interesting or relevant to our current situation?
  - \* James’ relationship with Jesus, his position & reputation?
  - \* The fact that James wrote to a scattered congregation?
  - \* The tone of the letter...more practical than emotional, more challenging than comforting?
  
2. While few people expected the pandemic & quarantine, is it realistic for us to enjoy it?
  - \* How have you or those you know been directly impacted by coronavirus i.e. illness, job, finances etc?
  - \* How would you describe your general attitude right now? Has it gotten better or worse over time?
  - \* What specific experiences have brought you joy during this season i.e. freer schedule, reading, family activities, working from home, church relationships, Bible, prayer & reflection etc?
  - \* Can you think of any other Bible passages that speak of expecting & enjoying trials i.e. **Romans 5:1-5**.
  
3. Someone read **2 Peter 1:3-8**.
  - \* Why is faith (our capacity to trust God) foundational or prerequisite to developing the other qualities listed i.e. goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection & love?
  - \* Which of these positive qualities are being tested in your life during this pandemic? Examples?
  - \* In whose life are you seeing some of these positive qualities right now i.e. family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, Bethel congregation?
  - \* Can you think of any “big-Godders” rather than “little-Godders” from history or among your acquaintances?
  
4. What do you think about the equation, **Trials + Faith + Time = Maturity**?
  - \* In what ways did the movie “Mr. Holland’s Opus” and/or the fire episode from Thomas Edison’s life illustrate the theme of James 1:1-4?
  - \* In what ways might our lives, families, relationships & church be different on the other side of covid-19?
  
5. Is there anything else from the passage or message which you found particularly insightful or helpful?