

Date: July 3, 2005  
Text: James 1:2-8  
Topic: Marriage. Trials.  
Week: 2 of 3  
Msg. # : 05-22

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part 2

# Those Words at the Altar

## *Rethinking Marriage as a Divine Test*



1. \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Gen.3)

2. Develop a \_\_\_\_\_ (v.2)

3. See \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.3-4)

4. Be \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.5-8)

*James 1:2-8*

<sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. (NIV)

# Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church

1. While the Bible presents marriage as a gracious gift from God, it is obviously a gift that comes with a number of very real challenges. Being mindful of this is critically important! What are some of the unrealistic expectations that you had about marriage when you were younger?

What are some of the current sources of unrealistic expectations regarding marriage in our culture?

2. List some of the practical advantages of being spiritually mature (versus immature)?

How has your "covenant relationship" with a *sinful* husband (or wife) caused you to grow spiritually?

3. What can you do to keep your desire for spiritual growth and maturity in mind as you work through your next marital challenge?

4. Read **James 1:5**. Write out a prayer that in your own words asks for God to grant you the divinely-guided skill of being a better husband or wife.

Read **James 3:17**. How would the "wisdom" of James 3:17 look in real life if you were to put an extra measure of it into practice in your marriage this week?

*We are reading through the Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule.*

**July 3<sup>rd</sup>**

*2Chr.13-14 & Ps.38-39*

**July 4<sup>th</sup>**

*2Chr.15-16 & Ps.40-41*

**July 5<sup>th</sup>**

*2Chr.17-18 & Ps.42-43*

**July 6<sup>th</sup>**

*2Chr.19-20 & Ps.44-45*

**July 7<sup>th</sup>**

*2Chr.21-22 & Ps.46-47*

**July 8<sup>th</sup>**

*2Chr.23-25 & Ps.48-49*

**July 9<sup>th</sup>**

*2Chr.26-28 & Ps.50-51*

**July 10<sup>th</sup>**

*2Chr.29-31 & Ps.52-53*

*Here are some resources which may help you understand and apply the truths presented in this week's sermon.*

Bridges, Jerry. **Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts**. NavPress, 1988.  
Carson, D. A. **How Long, O Lord? Reflections on Suffering & Evil**. Baker Books, 1990.  
Elliot, Elisabeth. **A Path Through Suffering**. Servant Publications, 1990.  
Guinness, Os. **God in the Dark: The Assurance of Faith Beyond a Shadow of Doubt**. Crossway Books, 1996.  
Gushee, David P. **Getting Marriage Right: Realistic Counsel for Saving & Strengthening Relationships**. Baker, 2004.  
Mason, Mike. **The Mystery of Marriage: As Iron Sharpens Iron**. Multnomah Press, 1985.  
Piper, John. **Future Grace: The Purifying Power of Living by Faith**. Multnomah Press, 1998.  
Swindoll, Charles. **Strike the Original Match**. Multnomah Press, 1980.  
Tada, Joni Eareckson. **When God Weeps: Why Our Suffering Matters to the Almighty**. Zondervan, 1997.  
Wagner, David. **Secret Sins of the Heart: Freedom from the Chains of Pornography**. Essence Publishing, 2001.  
Yancey, Philip. **Disappointment with God**. Zondervan, 1997.