

THE GIVING GOD

PASTOR BARRY BURNS

MESSAGE FROM SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

KEY SCRIPTURE

James 1:2-5 - "Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Mental Attitude in Trouble

- Why does James tell us to "count it all joy" when we face trials? What does this really mean?
- How is joy different from happiness, according to the sermon?
- Share an example of when maintaining a joyful attitude helped you through a difficult situation.

2. The Process of Becoming Strong

- The pastor said, "What is even sweeter is the process." What did he mean by this?
- How does standing strong in one trial prepare us for the next one?
- Can you identify ways you've grown stronger through past difficulties?

3. Wisdom in Crisis

- Why does James suddenly shift to talking about wisdom in verse 5?
- What's the difference between human wisdom based on experience and wisdom from God?
- When have you desperately needed God's wisdom? Did you ask for it?

4. God as a Giver

- How does understanding God as "the giving God" change how we approach Him in trouble?
- What does it mean that God gives "liberally and without reproach"?
- Why do we sometimes hesitate to ask God for help, especially when the trouble is our own fault?

5. Our Responsibility to Give

- How does being made in God's image affect our responsibility to give to others?
- Read Proverbs 3:27 and Galatians 6:10. What do these verses teach about withholding good from others?
- How can we be more generous in our community of faith?



KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. **Our mental attitude in trouble determines our outcome** - Joy is a spiritual force that gives us strength.
2. **The process of standing makes us stronger** - Each trial we overcome prepares us for the next one.
3. **Wisdom from God is essential in trouble** - We need divine wisdom, not just human experience.
4. **God gives freely without scolding** - He doesn't condemn us for our mistakes; He helps us through them.
5. **God's nature is to give** - Understanding this helps us trust Him and imitate Him in our own giving.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one or more of the following to practice this week:

Personal:

- When trouble comes (even small inconveniences), practice immediately saying, "I count this all joy" and ask God for wisdom.
- Make a list of past trials where God brought you through. Thank Him for the strength you gained.
- Identify one area where you need wisdom right now and boldly ask God for it daily.

In Community:

- Look for someone in your church or community who needs help. Be "God's hand" for that person (see Proverbs 3:27).
- Share with someone this week about a time God gave you wisdom in a difficult situation.
- If you have financial resources, prayerfully consider one way to be "rich in remarkable works of extravagant generosity" (1 Timothy 6:18).



REFLECTION QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL TIME

1. Am I currently facing a trial where I need to adjust my mental attitude?
2. What specific wisdom do I need from God right now?
3. Have I been withholding good from someone when it's in my power to help?
4. How has my view of God as "the giving God" changed after this study?

CLOSING PRAYER

- Pray for anyone in the group currently facing trials or needing wisdom
- Thank God for being a giving God who doesn't condemn us
- Ask God to make your group generous and ready to help others
- Pray for strength and steadfastness for the challenges ahead

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scan QR code for Upcoming Events, News, Giving and more!
<https://linktr.ee/cornerstonejc>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Celebrating Jesus in the Passover - March 25; Registration is open! We expect to sell out, so register early to guarantee your seat.

