

SERMON OUTLINE

Market Street Church of Christ • 3745 Market St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 • (503) 362-5634

How to Grow

August 16, 2009

I. Introduction

- A. Personally and as a church we want to grow
- B. The Question: How do we grow??? James 1 – perfect & complete

II. Preliminary Thoughts on James 1

- A. Implication #1: Hardship Brings About Growth
- B. Implication #2: God Allows Us to Suffer Hardship
- C. Implication #3: We Have a Choice in Trials: Grow or Stumble

III. Choosing Growth

- A. Trust In & Seek After God's Direction - James 1:5-8
 - 1. God has the answer to making it through trials — turn to Him, ask Him for the wisdom you need.
 - 2. We ASK but do we TRUST??? If we don't trust the message – it means nothing!!!
- B. Know What Is MOST Valuable - James 1:9-12
 - 1. Humble circumstances (Low degree)? - Suffering, loss, hurt
 - a. Glory / rejoice - WHY? – You are a child of God
 - b. Satan may take ALL that is valuable on earth but he cannot take away what is MOST valuable.
 - 2. Rich man – remember this is all fleeting
- C. Examine Your Desires - James 1:13-18
 - 1. Blaming God – What are you trying to do???
 - a. I can't GROW because _____ is in my life.
 - b. Last 5 years – have you grown???
 - 2. Deuteronomy 8:2-3 – He allowed hunger – so WE might learn
 - 3. Real question: What is YOUR desire - what's in your HEART
- D. Stop Fighting, Start Flourishing - James 1:19-21
 - 1. Anger - Maybe our first reaction to trials
 - a. This isn't right, they need to pay
 - b. Philippians 4:5 - gentle spirit to ALL (even the ones imprisoning you? Seeking to cause harm?)
 - 2. Let Go – Stop the Fight: Humility = “strength under control”
- E. You Know What Is Right to Do – Do It - James 1:22-25
 - 1. Book of James = practical – ends in ACTION
 - 2. Growth - not JUST knowing, studying, teaching, memorizing