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***Troubles, Joy, Faith and Wisdom***

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**Coast Hills Community Church**

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**James 1:1-8**

***1****This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing to the “twelve tribes”—Jewish believers scattered abroad. Greetings!*

***2****Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.* ***3****For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.* ***4****So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.*

***5****If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.* ***6****But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind.* ***7****Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.* ***8****Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.*

**A Little About James**

**Troubles**

U2: Troubles

 Somebody stepped inside your soul

Somebody stepped inside your soul

Little by little they robbed and stole

Till somebody else was in control

John 16: 33

Perspective Shift – **(Show 4 pics of rocks)**

**Joy!?**

What right does James have to use this strong language?

Romans 8:26-28 **(on screen)**

Romans 8:31-39 **(on screen)**

**Faith**

This is Faith! When the rubber meets the road… when real life comes flooding in, there is a great chance for us to endure and experience Jesus!

“Faith is an act of focusing directly on God and asking him for help. This is the skill of faith: focusing on God.” (Earl Palmer)

**Wisdom**

Ask

James1: 5&6

“How easy it is for us to imagine God as stingy or mean. We project on to the maker of all things the fearful, petty and even spiteful character that we meet so often in real life, sometimes even when we look in the mirror. Learning who God really is and what he truly like - and reminding ourselves of it regularly – is the key to it all.” (NT Wright, The Early Christian Letters for Everyone, p. 5.)

How do you see God?

John 16:23-24 (NIV)

Proverbs 1:2-7

**Refusing to Risk (Trust in God’s Character)**

Who are we trusting?

Isaiah 42:3 He will not crush the weakest reed or put out a flickering candle.