

# Becoming Mature in Christ

## *Turning Trials into Triumphs*

James 1:2-12

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### **Introduction:**

- The challenge of every person is to be saved in Christ. – The challenge of every Christian is to be mature in the faith.
- Bumper sticker – “*When life hands you lemons, make lemonade.*”
- **James 1:2-12**

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### **1. A Joyful Attitude:**

- a. **James 1:2**
- b. **John 16:33**
- c. **Acts 14:22**
- d. **1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:6-7**
- e. It is a known fact that our enemy wants to break our will.
- f. **Luke 14:27**
- g. We can only see life from the bottom side, which is what is going on right now, today.
- h. God sees the top side of life, the finished product.
- i. **Hebrews 12:1-2**

### **2. An Understanding Mind:**

- a. **James 1:3-4**
  - i. First – Our faith will be tested.
  - ii. Second – Testing works for us, not against us.
  - iii. Lastly – Trials help us to mature.
- b. Two qualities in a Mature Christian:
  - i. Spiritual Patience
  - ii. Spiritual Perseverance
- c. Think of those who were not:
  - i. Abraham –
  - ii. Moses –
  - iii. Peter –

### 3. A Surrendered Will:

- a. God must build His character in us before He can use us to accomplish His Will.
- b. He must work in us, before He can work through us.
- c. There must be a surrendered will. Jesus must be both Lord and Christ in our lives.
- d. Consider Jonah –

### 4. A Believing Heart:

- a. **James 1:5-6**
- b. Two things to understand:
  - i. We must ask God for wisdom.
  - ii. We need to ask with a believing heart.
- c. **Matthew 14:22-36**
- d. **Matthew 14:31**
- e. **James 1:12**
- f. Cody's story (With his permission).
- g. **Romans 8:28**