

# Persevering Through Change, Grief and Loss

**“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”  
James 1:2-3**

## **I. The State of the World is Affecting the State of Our Hearts**

- What happens when everything happens “all at once”?
- Individual griefs produce compound interest on corporate griefs
- When change happens fast it can cause erosion or momentum (forward movement)

## **II. The Time to Prepare for a Trial is *Before* We are in the Midst of One**

- Crises reveal character, they do not develop character
- To be unprepared is to be a hindrance to self and others
- Choices lead to stewardship

## **III. Learning to Embrace Grief, Loss and Change**

- Grief is a strong expression of love
- Mature faith sees the opportunities of grief-God is always good
- Cycles of sowing and reaping, loss makes room for gain
- Intentionally give up something to receive something greater
  - (“If you give me what you’re satisfied with...”)

## **IV. Maturity Born of Trials**

- Made complete
- Lacking nothing
- Increased capacity
- Receive the “crown of life” (James 1:12)

## **V. Returning to Joy**

- Foundation for maturity and confident living
- Learned as a child
- Perfected in times of trial