

Joshua Sharp: Trials and Temptations

August 30, 2022

[Baptists Preaching](#) is [a column](#) from the Baptist Standard. It is not an effort to advance any one theology or style but to present what a collection of Baptists considers a word from God. Likewise, Baptists Preaching offers a repository of Baptist preaching for future study and research. To recommend a sermon to be featured in Baptists Preaching, please contact eric.black@baptiststandard.com.

Joshua Sharp: Trials and Temptations (James 1:1-18)

Joshua Sharp, pastor of [Trinity Baptist Church](#) in Orange, compared spiritual growth to physical strengthening. A person who only uses 5-lb. weights can't expect to develop the kind of strength required of an Olympian, he said. Just as physical strengthening requires increasing resistance, so does spiritual growth.

Sharp provided a practical and thorough verse-by-verse explanation—what is called an expository sermon—of James 1:1-18. He described the way James instructed Christians to think about trials. James also instructed Christians facing trials first to seek wisdom by asking God for it.

Sharp explained trials are not necessarily punishment, and they often do hurt. Christians will face difficulties and should trust God confidently—particularly God's character and intent—through them. Likewise, outward trials are not the same as inward temptations. We should not blame God for the latter.

Sharp concluded where James concluded the passage, with the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

This sermon was delivered Aug. 7, 2022, for the morning worship service of Trinity Baptist Church in Orange. It was the first sermon in a series on the Letter of James.