



Extraordinary Living – Message 1

Announcements

- **Step Two – Essentials** // Sunday, September 11th at 12:45pm// LCC Annex, SSC Offices and GCC. Learn how to develop the essential habits that every believer needs to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. Water Baptism Class will be held during this step.

Warm-up

What is your favorite movie where the ending is victorious in a seemingly impossible situation?

This week we will be discussing the book of *James*. This book was written to help people, just like you and me, to live above the ordinary fallen world. *James* is filled with many practical principles to see how to focus on balancing right belief with right behavior.

Word and Application

Christianity is much more than just being forgiven; it is having an overcoming, radiant, extraordinary life. The book of *James* gives a perspective on how to rise up when we find ourselves buried in all kinds of struggles. According to James, struggles can come in the form of unbridled speech, unhealthy attitudes, doubt, strife, carnality, and being rootless in faith.

How do right choices lead to favorable consequences and wrong choices lead to unfavorable consequences?

4 Principles for Extraordinary Living

1. **Extraordinary living starts with an authentic relationship with Jesus.**

Read James 1:1 & Romans 10:9

The words we speak, our thoughts, and reactions all reveal who we are putting our faith in. Explain how this concept is true in our daily lives.

Small group lessons are available at cotkleaders.com.

2. Extraordinary life is a tested life

Read: James 1:2

Trials give us the opportunity to see God's love and provision in a situation where we cannot see the beautiful ending. Share a time when you experienced God's peace even though you could not see a possible solution or end to a specific challenge or trial. Explain how our mindset and actions can determine the outcome.

3. Extraordinary living requires patience

Read: James 1:3-4

We have the creator of the universe as our Father, so we have the ability to turn to Him instead of trying to figure things out on our own. Explain how patience & peace in the midst of trials reveals the depth of our trust and intimacy with Jesus.

4. Extraordinary gives wisdom to those who seek Him.

Read: James 1:5-8

God's word never says to depend on your own understanding. Instead we are to ask for God's wisdom or perspective in order to overcome the obstacles we encounter.

The question isn't "will God give you wisdom?", but rather "will you ask God to give you wisdom?" How does turning to God for His wisdom help us grow and mature in character through trials?

What specific situation in which you need to ask God for wisdom?

Prayer

Close in prayer by thanking God for the ability to turn to Him for all of His wisdom, insight, discernment, and understanding for every. Pray for the specific needs of the group.