

## Discussion Guide: Yield Your Heart to God

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42 (NIV)*

**December 1, 2002:** "Yield your heart to God" by Reese Kauffman, President of Child Evangelism Fellowship, Inc. Reading from James, Reese continues guiding us along a journey of "thinking about our hearts" and challenges us to, "yield our hearts completely and fully to God."

James, the half brother of our Lord Jesus Christ, encourages us to...

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4 (NIV)

Reese pointed out that, "trials come in many forms. A trial is anything that disturbs your pattern, your peace, your plan, your strategy for life. All of a sudden something interrupts it...that is what a trial is. It may last an hour or so, or considerably longer...days, weeks, months or even for a lifetime." The good news is that we can have victory over our trials.

### ***Discussion Questions:***

- Describe some recent trials that have come into your life.
- How have you responded to them?
- Did you ask for wisdom before responding<sup>1</sup>?
  
- What are the dangers of responding poorly to our trials<sup>2</sup>?
- How would you like to respond?
- How can you prepare yourself for a more effective response?

Reese concluded his sermon with two challenges:

- Spend time in the word of God, and allow God's word to be in your life.
- Pray for your personal spiritual needs, asking God for guidance and direction.

### ***Personal Application (within the Group or Privately):***

Do you want to have more joy in your life and respond more effectively when life's trials come your way? Then ask God to change your heart. After you spend time in the word of God, ask God to open the eyes of your heart and make you aware of specific areas of your life he would like you to change. If you need further help, ask your spouse, or a trusted friend. Then take your personal spiritual needs before God and ask him for wisdom, guidance, and direction in your life? This is the key to victory over the heart.

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<sup>1</sup> James 1:5-8

<sup>2</sup> James 1:14