

# Overcoming Challenges Together

## DCAT: Week 4

### **Key Scriptures: James 1:2-4 & Galatians 6:1-2**

When most people hear the word “ministry,” they think of preaching, teaching, or singing on a church stage. They imagine someone who is bold, confident and full of faith. While those are accurate expressions of ministry, it’s not just about what we *do* for others—it’s about what God wants to *do in us*. There is a powerful quote that says, “Show me someone who has served in ministry and I will show you someone who has experienced frustration, misunderstanding, hurts and offenses.” This is a realistic view of the nature of ministry. Ministry will break us down only to build us back up. But, only at the extent of allowing it to. It brings out our weaknesses and exposes our insecurities as it teaches us to rely fully on God.

Ministry is not for the faint of heart. As James 1:2-4 tells us, we should “consider it pure joy” when we face trials because those trials produce perseverance and maturity. And Galatians 6:1-2 reminds us to carry one another’s burdens with humility and care. These verses show us that ministry isn’t smooth or easy. It’s often uncomfortable and painful. But, in the middle of all that, God is working—changing us, healing us, and making us more like Him.

## Ministry Will Test You

When we serve others in ministry, we will be tested. There will be people who misunderstand our hearts. Some may criticize us unfairly or turn their backs on us. Others might ignore our hard work or act like it doesn't matter. These experiences can be discouraging, especially when we're giving our time, energy, and love.

**James 1:2-4 tells us, “*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. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*”**

This verse makes it clear that trials are part of the journey. They are not punishments—they are part of God's process. If you have ever led a youth group, volunteered in children's ministry, helped with church events, or simply tried to encourage others in their faith, you've probably faced some form of disappointment. Maybe you felt ignored. Maybe you felt like your efforts weren't enough. These experiences are not signs that you're doing something wrong. In fact, they might mean you're exactly where God wants you—because it's in those hard moments that He begins to grow you.

## Ministry Reveals What's Under the Surface

Serving in ministry doesn't just show us who others are—it shows us who *we* are. When things get hard, our true character comes out. We may realize that we're more impatient than we thought. We may struggle with pride, fear, or anger that we didn't know existed inside of us. Ministry brings these things to the surface—not to shame us, but to heal us.

**Galatians 6:1-2** says, *“Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”*

This verse reminds us that ministry requires gentleness and self-awareness. As we help others, we are reminded of our own need for grace. We are not better than anyone else—we are all in need of God's mercy.

It can be frustrating to see your own flaws. You might ask yourself, “Why am I still struggling with this?” But, God uses ministry to show us what needs to be healed. He invites us to stop pretending we're okay and start being real with Him. He wants to go beneath the surface and fix what's broken—not just so we can serve better, but so we can live in freedom.

## **Ministry Is Where Healing Begins**

Many people think they need to be fully healed before they can serve. But the truth is, healing often begins in the serving. God meets us in our pain and uses ministry as a tool to shape us. He teaches us patience, humility, and love—not through easy situations, but through hard ones.

When we're hurt by someone in ministry, it's easy to want to walk away. But what if, instead of quitting, you asked God to heal you in the middle of it? What if the pain you're feeling is part of God's plan to draw you closer to Him? Ministry will break your heart at times—but God is the One who puts it back together.

There are moments when you'll feel like giving up. Maybe someone lied about you. Maybe a leader disappointed you. Maybe a friend in ministry walked away. These things hurt deeply, but they don't have to destroy you. God can use those very wounds to make you stronger, wiser, and more compassionate. Ministry doesn't just get work done—it *gets people done*. It's part of God's way of shaping us into the image of Christ.

### **Will You Let God Heal You?**

The most important question is not, “Will you get through ministry without pain?” but, “Will you let God heal you *through* the pain?” Ministry is not for the faint of heart. It's for the willing—for those who are ready to be changed. If you stay faithful, God will use every frustration, every disappointment, and every misunderstanding to do a deeper work in you.

You don't have to hide your hurt from God. He already sees it. And He's not asking you to be perfect—He's asking you to be *open*. When you allow Him to reach beneath the surface, He can do what no person can do. He can heal the broken places, strengthen the weak areas, and fill the empty spaces with His love.

## **Conclusion**

Serving in ministry is not easy. It will test you, reveal your flaws, and break your heart at times. But, it is also one of the greatest ways God will shape your character and heal your soul. As James 1:2-4 reminds us, trials are part of God's plan to make us mature and complete. And, as Galatians 6:1-2 teaches, we are called to carry each other's burdens with humility and care.

Ministry is not about being strong all the time—it's about depending on God. It's about letting Him work in you while He works through you. So when the frustration comes, when the pain feels too heavy, remember this: God is not finished with you. He is doing something in you, and that something is beautiful. The question is, will you let Him?

## **Discussion Questions**

1. James encourages us to "consider it joy" when facing trials. How can we realistically find joy in difficult seasons? Can you share a time when a trial produced perseverance or growth in your life?
2. What does "maturity" and "completeness" in faith look like to you? How do trials contribute to that process?
3. "Carry each other's burdens" is a powerful phrase. What are some ways we can actively carry each other's burdens in our group or community?
4. When you're going through a trial, do you tend to isolate or reach out for support? How might Galatians 6:2 challenge or encourage you to engage with others during those times?
5. Galatians talks about restoring someone gently when they've sinned. What does "gentle restoration" look like in practical terms? How can we do this without falling into judgment or temptation ourselves?

6. How do James 1:2–4 and Galatians 6:1–2 complement each other when it comes to spiritual growth and community support? Why are both personal endurance and mutual care important in the Christian life?

7. Both passages highlight growth—either through perseverance or community support. In your current season, where do you feel God is growing you most: through personal challenges or through relationships with others? Why?