

Wednesday Word 3/25/2026

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

In the very early 2000’s I had just been married and had broken into the construction industry. I was working for a company called IMMACULATE CONSTRUCTION. We did service repairs and handyman-type projects in the greater Tacoma area. It was a great job to learn a variety of home maintenance skills.

One summer, we were doing a job in North Tacoma (I could show you the house today) and I had to crawl underneath the house to install some dryer ducting. It was clean down there and I had a lot of room to move around. After installing the ducting, I maneuvered around the support post to make my way out. When I did, my flashlight landed on something that jolted my heart: A life-size tiger. After a split second of terror, my brain caught up and reminded me there are no tigers in Tacoma. After further examination, I found out it was the porcelain statue of a tiger. It was in great shape. I crawled over there and found not only the tiger but bundles of newspapers from the 1960’s (I cannot remember the exact date) that were also still bundled and in good condition. I called the other guys over and we spent a bit of time looking at the papers and the statue and we realized there was no way for the tiger to fit into the crawl space. We concluded that it must have been left under the house during construction on mistake. We figured they must have wanted it on the property somewhere but mistakenly overlooked where it was and when they realized it, it was too late.

This story always serves as a reminder not to overlook the process God has me in for my development. Sometimes we go through pain or frustration and want to get through it as soon as we can. While that makes logical sense, sometimes it is in the process that God develops us the most — where we spiritually mature. Just like the tiger statue was overlooked in construction and now will remain in that crawlspace, so could the circumstance that could be our biggest growth point if we overlook it and rush through it just to get to the other side.

Let’s look at our lives and look at the hardest parts and ask God to use them to develop us into strong, mature followers of His Son!

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric Lundberg