



## “Trials” James 1:1-12

If you ask people who don't believe in God why they don't, the number one reason will be suffering. If you ask people who believe in God when they grew most spiritually, the number one answer will be suffering. -Ortberg “Soul Keeping”

It's not what happens TO you (circumstances) but what happens IN you (character) that either makes you (better) or breaks you (bitter) in life.

### What is the Book of James All About? (V1)

Author: Jesus' little half-brother James. John 7:5; 1Cor15:7  
James is one of the earliest letters written (mid AD 40's).

Audience: Christians scattered from persecution. (v1b) Acts7-8

Agenda: Faith That Works. James 2:17, 26

### What is True About Trials (Perspective)?

V2 Count (Gr. deem, account, think) it all joy...

- Trials are inevitable, unpredictable, and multidimensional. (V2)  
John 16:33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.
- Trials test my faith. (V3)  
1Pet1:6-7 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- Trials will produce holiness (character) and happiness (contentment) in Christ if I don't give up (steadfastness). (Vv3-4)  
1Pet4:12-13 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

## What Resources Do We Have for Trials (Power)? The Gospel gives us...

- Wisdom (Vv5-8)  
Matt7:24-27
- Wealth (Vv9-11)  
Luke 12:15 And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”
- Wholeness (V12)  
“Crown of life” = the crown which is life (MacArthur Commentary) or to crown that man with life (ESV Gospel Transformation Bible).  
V4b perfect, complete, lacking in nothing.  
Wholeness is not only the product of trials but gives us greater capacity to face trials!

### Growing Notes

- 1) Read the introduction to this New Teaching Series. What are your thoughts and feelings? Why do you think it's not our circumstances but our character that either makes us or breaks us in life?
- 2) Read James 1:1-12. What stands out to you from this text? Who is the Author, Audience and what is the Agenda of this book? What would cause Jesus' little half-brother James to believe Jesus is God (v1)? Why is being with Jesus the key to being like Jesus (Faith That Works)?
- 3) What important role does our perspective play in dealing with trials? What is true about trials? Review the three points under this heading. Which one is most convicting? Comforting?
- 4) What resources do we have for trials to make us rather than break us (Power)? Review the three points under this heading. How do divided loyalties hinder our persevering in trials (v8)? How does the wealth of the Gospel help us in trials? Why do you think wholeness (holiness/happiness in Christ) is not only the product of trials but also the power to face trials? What is the most important thing God is speaking to you from this Bible study? Pray.