

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit**  
**Personal Responsibility During Adversity**  
**James 1:12-18**

Last time...our need for wisdom, faith, and humility in times of trouble and spiritual intensity  
We need those things in these times

- foretold by Jesus  
Matt 24:7     **For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places**
- foretold by the Holy Spirit  
2 Tim 3:1     This know also, that in the last days perilous (“fierce”) times shall come.

Matt 8:28     ...two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way  
(Legion, opposing the spread of the Gospel)

The wisdom we need is the Word of God  
The faith we need is in Jesus Christ...Heb 11:1, 6, 8  
The humility we need is to serve the Lord and each other, not ourselves

In tumultuous and spiritually intense times, we need not fear man or demon

James 4:7-8a

Luke 12:2-5

All the deceit and confusion will be exposed, fear not man

Let's not focus on the deception and the darkness...those things have dominated the world since Gen 3

Are money and power in play in these tumultuous times?

Of course!

That's is how the world works

Should we get all bothered if money and power are behind the confusion?

No!

So what should we be concerned about?

The people trapped in the darkness, prisoners of war of the world, dying in sin

The people who do not have what we have (Col 1:12-14):

- a part in the inheritance of the saints in light
- deliverance from the power of darkness
- translation into the kingdom of God
- forgiveness of sin
- redemption by the blood of the Lamb of God

Let's be wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil (Rom 16:19)

A “low view” focuses on this world, a “high view” focuses on the Kingdom of God

Focusing on “lesser/lower issues”...the deception, the confusion, and the lawlessness...  
leads to fear of man, which does not lead to repentance and newness of life

Focusing on “higher issues”...the sin of man and God’s solution to the sin of man...  
does lead to repentance and newness of life

1 Cor 1:21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not  
God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them  
that believe.

1 Cor 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the  
power of God, and the wisdom of God.

1 Cor 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us  
wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption

The issue in this nation demanding our attention and energy is the sin and unbelief of  
mankind all around us

Matt 24:7 and 2 Tim 3:1 are because of the sin of man

COVID-19 is a virus, it is a pestilence in the “beginning of sorrows”

The racial tensions and social unrest are also a part of the “beginning of sorrows”

The rise of lawlessness is the fruit of a determined Godlessness

[ Connected? ]

All the hatred is natural in the unregenerate heart of man rebelling against God,  
rejecting His love and grace

So last week’s message was not to get us all stirred up about the Gov’t and the media or  
to stoke fear of man, but to make us aware of the spiritual deception pervading the  
times and to move us to seek the Lord about the issue that matters:  
sin/unbelief and the Lord’s antidote for that “infection” (rate = 100%)

Prov 28:5 Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD  
understand

Prov 29:25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD  
shall be safe

For as did Israel, so has USA

Ps 106:6

Ps 106:13

Ps 106:21a

Ps 106:24b

Ps 106:25

Ps 106:28

Ps 106:29

Ps 106:36-39

The cure for all that ails this nation is Godly sorrow, repentance of sin, and the fruit of repentance

This nation needs to cry out unto the Lord for His mercy and forgiveness

Rom 2:4

This sinful nation needs...Jesus Christ and His ministry of reconciliation

Let's keep our "spiritual wits about us"

We have a personal responsibility to do so!

This time...keeping our hearts and minds on the Lord and our personal responsibility in times of adversity

We are in James 1

v12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation:

In context...v2-5

Oh how happy is the person that perseveres without wavering in times of adversity and proving...with wisdom, faith, and humility

Enduring adversity is by faith

We know the end of the matter (Rev 21) but we do not know each of the steps along the way

So we walk by faith (2 Cor 5:7) like Abraham (Heb 11:8)

Enduring adversity is by wisdom and humility

Prov 3:5-7 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

"Blessed is the man"

1. that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful (Ps 1:1)
2. unto whom the Lord imputes no iniquity (Ps 32:2, Rom 4:8)
3. that trusts in the Lord (Ps 34:8, Ps 84:12, Jer 17:7)
4. whom You (the Lord) choose and cause to approach You that he may dwell in Your courts (Ps 65:4)
5. whose strength is in You, in whose heart are Your ways (Ps 84:5)
6. whom You chasten and teach out of Your Law (Ps 94:12)
7. that fears the Lord, that delights greatly in His commandments (Ps 112:1)
8. that hears Me (Wisdom), watching daily at My gates, waiting at the posts of My doors (Prov 8:34)
9. that does this (keeps and does justice) and keeps his hand from doing any evil (Is 56:2)
10. whose hope is in the Lord (Jer 17:7)

11. that endures temptation/adversity, for when he is tried he shall receive the crown of life (James 1:12)

when he is tried...accepted, approved in and thru the adversity

1 Peter 1:6-9, 13

1 Peter 3:12-18

he shall receive...have offered to and be accepted by

the crown of life...*stephanos* (goes to the victor over death)

Rom 7:24-25a O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Cor 15:58 But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ

Rev 2:10 **Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life**  
(persecuted Church)

Rev 4:10-11 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

which the Lord has promised...a certainty/hope  
from the God Who cannot lie (Titus 1:2) and cannot fail  
to the heirs of the kingdom of God (James 2:5)

to them that love Him

John 14:15 If you love Me, keep My commandments

John 14:23 If a man love Me, he will keep My words

John 13:34-35

Matt 22:36-40

Rom 13:10

2 Tim 4:5-8

Now, in a time of great adversity/trial, we need clarity of thought and heart

v13-15 Let no man say...but every man is:

A distinction is made between temptation

- a test of our faith (v2, 12)
- that accomplishes patience (v4)
- that which leads to glory (v12)

and being tempted

- to sin/rebel/not believe what God said
- the seed of destruction
- that leads to shame

During the adversity that tests/proves our faith in Jesus Christ,  
we have a personal responsibility for our actions when we are  
tempted/enticed to rebel against God because of the adversity/trial

Eternal truth: Whatsoever we sow, we shall reap (Gal 6:7)

If we sow to the Spirit and follow Jesus as He was tempted/tested in the Garden of  
Gethsemane...

Matt 26:36-44

1 Thes 5:15-18

Phil 4:4-7, 13

we will reap life everlasting (Gal 6:7)

If we sow to the flesh, we shall reap corruption (Gal 6:8)

We cannot say, "The devil made me do it!"

The devil is the tempter but not the doer of our choices;  
we own our choices

We cannot say, "God made me do it!"

God is not enticed by the deceptions of the tempter, not temptable  
God does not entice us to rebel against Him and to indulge our  
wicked flesh

Luke 11:2-4 lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

Luke 11:9-13 (to discern good vs evil and choose good)

God

- is holy and pure, sinless
- hates sin (Prov 6:16-19)
- cannot be deceived/enticed by anything that is not of  
His nature...not temptable

We are tempted by the tempter, but are not beguiled/entrapped by the temptation  
until we give in to the temptation and choose to indulge our flesh

Then, the lust in our heart (Jer 17:9) bears fruit...sin and death

Satan, counterfeit fisher of men, baits the hook but man bites  
Satan lures, but man chooses to either flee from sin or invites sin to come in for a visit

The “addiction” is in the heart of man  
LSD...lust, sin ,death

God cannot be blamed for the sin in the world or the sin nature with which we wrestle

Praise God for what He did about the sin in the world and in our hearts!

John 3:16

Rom 5:8

Rom 5:17-19 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Rom 6:23

Therefore...

v16 Do not err:

Do not be seduced by the father of lies

Do not sow to the flesh

Do not think God is behind the temptation to rebel against Him,

Do not wander from the goodness and the grace of God

Do not take a “short cut” thru the adversity that pleases the flesh

Do not try to complete in the flesh what God began in the Spirit (Gal 3:3)

Do not err, knowing not the Scriptures (Matt 22:29)

Heb 12:1-2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of ~~our~~ faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Let's Matt 16:24

Let's be Spirit-filled and Spirit-led

Let's keep our bearings and God's perspective in tumultuous times, all the way to the end of the adversity/trial

Let's follow Jesus, our Good Shepherd is leading us thru it

v17 Every good gift and every perfect gift:  
God alone is good (Matt 19:17, Rom 3:10)  
God alone is perfect (Rom 3:23)  
Therefore every good gift and every perfect gift can only come from our Father

What is good according to the Scriptures?

Includes

- 2 Peter 1:3-4 which comes by...
- Affliction/Adversity (Ps 119:71, James 1:12)
- Suffering (Phil 1:29, Phil 3:7-15)
- All things (Rom 8:28)

Our God is the Father of lights, not darkness

Ps 104:2 Who coverest *thyself* with light as *with* a garment

1 John 1:5b God is light, and in him is no darkness at all

Matt 5:14 ye are the light of the world (bearing John 8:12)

1 Thes 5:1-6

Our God does not change...is not capricious (erratic, unpredictable) or fickle

Mal 3:6 I *am* the LORD, I change not

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever

Our God is constant and immoveable...not like the sun casting shadows as it makes its circuit thru the sky

Ps 55:22 Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee:  
he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved

Ps 62:6 He only *is* my rock and my salvation: *he is* my defence; I shall not be moved.

In that...

v18 of His own will begat He us:

Man rebelled against God and death entered into His perfect creation

God made a way of reconciliation and regeneration for dead-in-sin man

Those who believe what He has done are His children

Gen 3:21-22

John 12:28 **Father, glorify thy name.** Then came there a voice from heaven, *saying*, I have both glorified *it*, and will glorify *it* again.

John 12:32 **And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me**

John 19:30

John 1:12-13

1 Tim 2:4  
2 Peter 3:9

Titus 3:5-6 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy (But God...) he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour

Rev 5:12 Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

Rev 13:8 (our names) written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world

with the word of truth:

John 1:1, 4, 14  
John 17:17  
Heb 4:12  
John 6:63  
Rom 10:17

be a kind of firstfruits:

John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

1 Cor 15:20-23

2 Cor 5:17

All people are born into mankind

By faith, whosoever will believe are born again into Jesus kind

Most assuredly, a good gift

Eph 2:8-9

and a perfect gift

2 Cor 5:21

Jude 24

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy

1 Cor 1:7-9

1 Thes 5:23-24 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who also will do *it*

1 Peter 1:2-7

2 Tim 1:12

James 1:12



## Application/Lessons

Endure cheerfully

Keep “Rock solid” bearings

Look to and lean on Jesus

Share Jesus, the Cure for all that ails this nation (sin and unbelief)

Be watching and ready to be a part of what God is doing!

Fear not man

Rev 3:11

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown

Pray for revival in this nation, in tumultuous and spiritually intense times

Like in the 1960s...

- Bible and prayer out of schools
- Anti-establishment protests by the next generation
- Assassinations and riots
- Social unrest and protests
- Hippies and “peace” (symbolized by an upside-down, broken cross)
- Jesus Movement...a great movement of the Spirit of God!

In these momentous times in which we have been chosen by God to live...

be Jesus-kind to mankind!

Bear the Family resemblance!

Phil 2:15

That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

We have a personal responsibility to do so!