

JAMES

GENUINE FAITH ON DISPLAY

JOY IN TRIALS

AND

DOERS OF THE WORD

JAMES 1

WHY JAMES IS A FAVORITE

1. Picturesque language
2. Memorable passages
3. Echoes the teaching of Jesus
4. Contains wisdom for living

THEME: GENUINE FAITH ON DISPLAY

This is a book for:

1. Believers
2. Non-believers who think they are Christians

THE AUTHOR

“James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ”

A. Identifying the Man

B. Understanding His Past (John 7:5; 1 Cor. 15:3-7)

C. Recognizing His Prominence (Acts 12:17; 15:13-19)

D. Appreciating His Humility

THE AUDIENCE

“To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad”

- A. Identifying the Audience (James 1:1; Acts 8:1)
- B. Determining the Time

GENUINE FAITH CONSIDERS TRIALS AS JOY

(VERSES 2-18)

- A. Think Rightly Regarding Trials (2-4)
- B. Pray Expectantly During Trials (5-8)
- C. Maintain Perspective Through Trials (9-12)
- D. Distinguish accurately between temptation and trials (13-18)

A. THINK RIGHTLY REGARDING TRIALS (v.2-3)

Specific difficulties mentioned in James

- financial poverty (1:9)
- oppression and taken to court (2:6)
- blasphemed (2:7)
- exploitation and execution (5:4-6)

These were not small trials!

James 1:2 - Consider it **all joy**, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

joy – “to be glad or delight in something”

all – “complete, full, or unmixed”

consider – “to count, to reckon, to evaluate”

- Main imperative of this section

So surely as the stars are fashioned by His hands, and their orbits fixed by Him, so surely are our trials allotted to us: He has ordained their season and their place, their intensity and the effect they shall have upon us.

- Charles Spurgeon



James 1:3-4 - knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

endurance – “steadfastness, constancy, perseverance”

- Literally “to remain under”

let endurance have its perfect result

- An imperative; don't disrupt endurance's work

perfect and complete, lacking in nothing

- This pointing to spiritual maturity, not lacking in any godly character qualities.



B. PRAY EXPECTANTLY DURING TRIALS (v.5-8)

James 1:5a - **But if any of you lacks wisdom**

if – assumes that what is suggested is a reality

Wisdom:

“[Wisdom] is the moral discernment that enables the believer to meet life and its trials with decisions and actions consistent with God’s will.”

– D. Edmond Hiebert, *James*

James 1:5a - But if any of you lacks wisdom, **let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach**, and it will be given to him.

ask – imperative, present active; must continually ask

- **Proverbs 2:6–7**: For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding. He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity.
- **Matthew 7:11**: If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!”

C. MAINTAIN PERSPECTIVE THROUGH TRIALS

(v.9-12)

James 1:9 - **But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position**

the brother of humble circumstances – literally, “the brother, the lowly one”

- While lowly can refer to either spiritual humility or material poverty, the contrast with the “rich” in verse 10 makes it clear this is referring to material lowliness

What high position and spiritual riches does the believer possess?

- **Forgiveness of sin** (Colossians 1:13-14)
- **No longer a slave to sin** (Romans 6:5-7)
- **No longer walking in darkness, but in the light** (John 12:46; 2 Cor 4:6)
- **Made a child of God** (1 John 3:1)
- **Loving relationship with the King of Kings** (Revelation 1:5; 17:14)
- **Immediate access to speak with God** (1 John 5:14-15)
- **A great high priest who understands us** (Hebrews 4:15)
- **Everything related to life and godliness** (2 Peter 1:3)
- **Certain hope of heaven** (Romans 6:22; Ephesians 1:18; Titus 3:5-7)

James 1:12 - Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Blessed – an inner peace and joy experienced when living in favor with God

We must maintain perspective in trials, realizing the spiritual blessings we have in this life and the eternal rewards waiting for us after death!

D. DISTINGUISH ACCURATELY BETWEEN TEMPTATION AND TRIALS (v.13-18)

James 1:13 - Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

Faulty logic :

- 1) God brought this trial into my life for my testing (v.2-3).
- 2) If I didn't have this trial in my life, I would not have responded sinfully.
- 3) Therefore, God is to blame for how I responded.

... for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

A. Temptation to sin is contrary to God's holiness (Is. 6:3; Rev. 4:8)

God is holy – this means he is both transcendent and morally perfect

B. Temptation to sin is contrary to God's actions

Consider God's other actions in relation to sin:

- God sent prophets to warn men against sin (Isaiah 13:11).
- God brings judgment against men for their sin (Romans 2:5-6).
- God the Father sent His beloved Son to suffer on the cross. He crushed His one and only Son to pay the penalty of sin (Isaiah 53:10; 1 Timothy 1:15).

James 1:14 - But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

The true source

Lust – strong desire or craving

Lust is the internal temptation where you want your way instead of God's way

James 1:15 - Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

➤ Lust leads to sin which leads to death

Sin – in James, “sin” refers to actions of sin

We must not mistakenly think that lust is “pre-sin.” Lust is sin and its result is sinful actions.

THE TEMPTATION OF CHRIST

External Temptation by Satan and the world:
Go your own way!

Trials
(testing)



Faithful
Obedience

Endurance

Holiness
Proven

Internal
Temptation



**Sinful
Actions**

Death

- A. Temptation to sin is contrary to God's holiness (v.13a)
- B. Temptation to sin is contrary to God's actions (v.13b-15)
- C. Temptation to sin is contrary to God's goodness (v.16-18)**
 - God is infinitely and unchangeably good!
 - A perfect example of God's goodness is our own salvation!

GENUINE FAITH RECEIVES THE WORD

(VERSES 19-27)

1. Receive the Word Eagerly (19-20)
2. Receive the Word Purely (21a)
3. Receive the Word Humbly (21b)
4. Receive the Word Actively (22-25)
5. Receive the Word Religiously (22-25)