

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 7/3-4/2023 *James 1:1-12*

Classroom Location and Zoom – Sign In information, below at end of the notes;

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OPENING PRAYER

INTRODUCTION TO JAMES - (*The Holy Bible (NKJV), Broadman and Holman publishers*)

“Faith without works cannot be called faith. Faith without works is dead (2:26), and a dead faith is worse than no faith at all. Faith must work. It must produce. It must be visible. Verbal faith is not enough. Mental faith is insufficient. Faith must be there, but it must be more. It must inspire action. Throughout his epistle to Jewish believers, James integrates true faith and everyday practical experience by stressing that true faith must manifest itself in works of faith.

Faith endures trials. Trials come and go, but a strong faith will face them head-on and develop endurance. Faith understands temptations. It will not allow us to consent to our lusts and slide into sin. Faith obeys the Word. It will not merely hear, and not do. Faith produces doers. Faith harbors no prejudice. For James, faith and favoritism cannot co-exist. Faith displays itself in works. Faith is more than mere words. It is more than knowledge. It is demonstrated by obedience, and it overtly responds to the promises of God. Faith controls the tongue. This small but immensely powerful part of the body must be held in check. Faith can do it. Faith acts wisely. It gives us the ability to choose wisdom that is heavenly and to shun wisdom that is earthly. Faith produces separation from the world and submission to God. It provides us with the ability to resist the devil and humbly draw near to God. Finally faith waits patiently for the coming of the Lord. Through trouble and trial it stifles complaining.”

THIS WEEK: JAMES CHAPTER ONE – *Faith without works is dead! The Book of James* has been called the epistle of applied Christianity. It is known for its hard-hitting truth, given to the reader in clarity and in practicality. Theme of the Book of James: Faith that works! Faith that produces work. If you're saved and you know it, then your life will truly show it. Chapter One Theme: God tests faith by trials. God does not test with evil, but He tests faith by His Word, not by man's words.

James encourages his readers to respond positively to their trials (1: 2-4); • He exhorts them to ask in faith for wisdom (1: 5-8); • He comforts the poor and warns the rich (1: 9-11); • He pronounces a blessing on Christians who endure trials (1:12).

KEY WORDS: In today's study we have five key words, all present active imperatives, or commands. We have *count*, v.2; *know*, v.3; *let patience*, v. 4; *ask*, v. 5; and *love*, v. 12.

GOD TESTS FAITH BY TRIALS

Jas 1:1 James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings. (*chairo* - rejoice, be full of cheer).

- **A bondservant!** The Greek word is *doulos*, which is a bond slave. There are only two writers in the New Testament that introduce themselves by the title, only of bondslave. Paul the apostle calls himself an apostle and a slave. But only James and Jude introduce themselves, just as bondslaves of Jesus Christ, of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Interestingly enough, this is the James, who was a half-brother to Jesus.** He was a sibling who grew up with Jesus, along with Jude. In (*Mar 6:3*) *Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us? So they were offended at Him.* It would appear that His brothers did not believe that He was the Messiah, until His resurrection from the dead. James became one of the leaders in the early church. Very early in the history of the church, James, the brother of John, who was one of the disciples, called to be an apostle, was martyred. After that, the James that appears in the Acts of the Apostles is this particular James, the half-brother of Jesus, who after His resurrection with Jude, became leaders in the early church. (*Act 12:17b* Peter's escape from prison) *And he said, "Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren." And he departed and went to another place. (Act*

15:13) And after they had become silent, **James** answered, saying, "Men and brethren, listen to me: (Act 21:18 Paul coming to Jerusalem with an offering) On the following day Paul went in with us to **James**, and all the elders were present. James wrote this practical epistle and of course Jude wrote the epistle of his name. He introduces himself also as a bonds slave of Jesus Christ.

- **Now if I had that kind of a relationship with Jesus, I'm sure I would have inserted** somewhere along the line, that I was a half-brother to Jesus Christ! I would want people to know how important I was! But James just declares he is a bonds slave of God and the Lord Jesus Christ, but what higher honor, what higher privilege, can one have, than being a bonds slave of Jesus Christ?
- **To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad.** The *diaspora*. He sees them as *dia*, to scatter, to throw! *Spora*, seed. He sees these Jewish believers scattered across the Roman world, having Christ in their heart. These are believing Jews. James realizes that there's something of God's sovereignty in this, that the brethren are sown throughout the known world.
- **Greetings.** He says to them *greetings!* Literally, just rejoice or be joyful, full of cheer . It is in the present tense, so it means to always rejoice, even though they had been driven out of their home, out of their city, out of their country!
- **To the twelve tribes. We hear of the ten lost tribes. But evidently they weren't lost yet!** But they are scattered abroad. The Jews were first dispersed when the Assyrians conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel. The second dispersion took place when Judah, the southern kingdom, was conquered by Babylon. Then in about sixty-three B.C., there was a third dispersion of the Jews. Finally, in seventy A.D., the final dispersion of the Jews, when Titus conquered the rebellious Jews that were still living in Israel at that time.

Testing of Your Faith

We need to have a joyful attitude when we face trials. Secondly, we need to know when we face trials, to have an understanding mind.

Jas 1:2 My brethren (15x), count, it all (pure) joy

- **Count (consider, reckon)! This is the first point with respect to trials.** A key word, *count* (consider) is a present imperative, meaning to continually reckon, to constantly be knowing, to evaluate. It's all about what we value. Our values determine our evaluation. If you value or count comfort over character, your trials will upset you. But if you value godly character, or Christlikeness, then you can rejoice that God is using it to make you more like Jesus Christ! So we are commanded, when we are being tried or tested, to have a joyful attitude or rejoice in the Lord.
- **All joy!** This means pure joy, sheer joy, without admixture. It means that if you are a Christian, when you are being tried and tested, you're not joyful because of your trial—you're not joyful because your car broke down—you're joyful in your trial, because God can use it for your good and for His glory. We see the spiritual value through that trial. When we are tried and tested, we are to have a joyful attitude. We're not to complain, gripe or whine or run from our trials, which is what we usually want to do—we are to rejoice. I like that it says, **"count it all joy."** (Rom 15:13) *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Act 5:41) So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.*

when you fall into (face) **various trials**, (sickness, loneliness, bereavement, disappointment)

- **When, not if, but when,** no "ifs" here! It means you will go through trials! It's impossible to live in this world in a human body and not be tried and tested.
- **You fall.** Here the word "*fall*" means because it wasn't as a result of sin or of a mistake you made. It is just part of life, and it happens. But God is the One behind the scenes allowing it for our good and for His glory.
- **Various trials.** Notice that the trials are different or *various*. Trials come in different forms. When you are tried, they are in variety of trials. Sometimes they're financial trials, marital difficulties, emotional trials or physical difficulties and trials. All you have to do is get old and you'll have trials.
- **James is not talking about problems that we bring on ourselves because of our disobedience or sin.** He's speaking about hardships or difficulties that come because of life that God allows in order to use them for our good and for His glory. (2Pe 1:6) *to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,*
- **Now that is the opposite response that we naturally have to a time of trials or testing.** We so often feel that God has maybe forsaken us. Maybe God is angry with us. Somehow and I don't know where it came from, we have the concept that serving God ought to be a bed of roses. It ought to be just smooth. It ought

to be just so easy and plushy, just serving God. It ought to be something that is just never a problem. But that is not the case. We declare our love for God and God puts the declaration to the test. Do you love Me if this should happen? Would you love Me, should that happen? Would you remain true and faithful to Me?

- **We find the interesting story of Job in the Old Testament.** When the sons of God were presenting themselves to God, Satan also came with them. God said, to Satan, where have you been? And he said, oh, I have been going to and fro throughout the earth, up and down in it. God said have you considered My servant Job, an upright man? He loves good! He hates evil, a perfect man, upright.
- **Satan said to God, concerning Job, does Job serve You for nothing?** Look at all that You have given to him. Anybody would be a fool not to serve You when You have given them as much as You have given unto Job. Let me take away his riches. You will find out the true character and nature of Job. He'll curse You to Your face. So God gave to Satan the permission to strip Job, with the restriction to spare his life.
- **So Job started receiving the messages.** All of his cattle, camels, sheep, and all, were killed. His children, all ten of them were killed in a wind that struck the home where they were eating. In all of these things, Job did not curse God, nor charge Him foolishly. But he fell on his face, saying, naked I came into the world, naked I'm going out. The Lord has given, and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord! Now, these things would be classified in the insurance company today as an act of God. So often we equate calamities to God. We blame God for the calamities. But Job did not curse nor did he charge God foolishly.
- **A second time!** The sons of God, again, were presenting themselves to God, Satan also came with them. God said to Satan, where have you been? He said, oh I've have been going up and down throughout the earth, to and fro in it. Have you considered My servant Job? Satan assures God that he has been studying Job, developing a strategy whereby he would take him.
- **He said, You won round one, but let me touch him physically.** You've not let me touch him physically, but let me touch him. He'll curse You to Your face. Job became covered with boils, developing such a horrible state, smelly, horrible, running sores all over him. His condition was so bad, that his wife finally said to him, why don't you just curse God and die?
- **Miserable comforters! His friends came to ostensibly comfort him, but instead they harangued him.** They were trying to figure out why a man would go through such a horrible loss and suffering as did Job and came to the conclusion that Job surely was hiding some horrible sin. No man would go through these things except he were a horrible sinner.
- **We know the outcome of the story, how that Job proved himself faithful to God** through these testings. His faith did not waver! There were times when he would express despair. But yet in the midst of that, tremendous declarations of faith. I know that my Redeemer lives and shall stand in the last days upon the earth. And though worms may destroy and eat this body, yet in my flesh, I shall see God! And how God finally came on the scene, rebuked Job's friends for their total misunderstanding of the condition of Job. He told them, have Job pray for you. Then God blessed Job in the end! Job had twice as much wealth and riches than he had ever had before! He had passed the test! "My grace is sufficient!"
- **My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials.** This is the first point with respect to trials. God puts our faith to the test. God puts our devotion to the test. But the purpose of God is not to destroy you! But to strengthen and improve you! Through the testing, we become strong. Through the testing, we learn our own weaknesses. Not to rely on our strength but to learn to rely upon His strength! God will deliberately put us to the test to the breaking point of our own abilities and resources, in order that we will not trust in ourselves or in the weaknesses of our own flesh! But that we will learn to trust in the Lord! We won't look to ourselves for our reserves or resources, but we learn to look to God for His resources!
- **My strength is always limited!** As long as I am looking to myself for the resource, my resources are always limited, very limited. But when I look to God for my resource, I have unlimited resources! When I look to myself for strength, my strength is very limited, but when I look to God for strength, my strength is unlimited. (*Joh 15:5*) *"I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.* But, relying on Him, (*Php 4:13*) *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*
- **The Apostle Paul learned that through the trials, the testings, the weaknesses of his own flesh.** He came to the place where he said, I glory in my weakness that the power of God, might be manifested in me. For when I am weak, then I am strong. So God puts us to the test.

Jas 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience (endurance, perseverance).

- **The second point we need to know** is that when we face trials, we need to have an understanding mind. This is how we can “*count it all joy*,” which seems contrary to nature. How, can I be joyful, have a joyful attitude, when I am going through suffering, sorrow, hardships, or trials? We see the answer in the next verse! We are to have an understanding mind. The key word is “**knowing**.” Knowing what? It is *knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience*.” Patience is perseverance, steadfast endurance.
- **Paul said much the same thing in his letter to the Romans. (Rom 5:3-5)** *And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; [4] and perseverance, character; and character, hope. [5] Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*
- **Tribulation produces perseverance.** Perseverance, character; and character, hope. I begin to experience God’s faithfulness. And experience, then hope, so that when I’m going through the trials, I have that hope that sustains me, which keeps me going.
- **We are strengthened by our trials. We need to remember that my trials will make me strong in working patience, which is the same as perseverance, steadfast endurance. It’s like steel that is strengthened when tried in the fire. Trials are for our good and for God’s glory.**
- **My good and God’s glory**—remember that. If you value spiritual maturity and character, and you want to glorify God, then that’s all that matters. Not that the pain goes away, the sorrow goes away, or God changes the circumstances, but God gives you strength to have steadfast endurance for your good and for His glory. Our trials will prove our faith and produce patience and endurance.
- **The term, steadfast endurance, was used for someone walking in a strong headwind.** You would lean into the wind and keep progressing against the wind. You wouldn’t let it blow you back, but you would lean into the wind and keep moving forward. God wants to make you strong through your trials and testings. So we are to “*count*,” verse 2, and “*know*,” verse 3.

Jas 1:4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect (mature, complete) ***and complete, lacking nothing.***

- **Patience to have its perfect work! Number three, we are, we must have a surrendered will.** We are to have a **joyful attitude**; an understanding mind and we have a surrendered will. “But **let patience**, steadfast endurance, have its *perfect work*, that you may be *perfect*, or mature, and *complete, lacking nothing*.” The key word **let** speaks of a surrendered will.
- **If we surrender to God, two things happen.** First, verse 4 says we will grow up, “be perfect” or “mature.” “Perfect” was used of fruit that is ripe. Secondly, we will be equipped to help others by “lacking nothing.” So suffering equips us to serve.
- **The great danger when we face trials is that we resist God and don’t let Him work His purposes and His plans in our lives.** I’m convinced that many times we go through the same trial over and over, because we don’t learn our lesson. We don’t pass the test. If we would learn to let God have His way and His will, then we could move on and grow in our Christian life. We are to be like clay and God is the potter
- **Let patience have its perfect work, that is, to bring you into maturity.** There are two things we need to know, verse 3, when we are going through trials. Number one, my trials are designed by God, or allowed by God, to test or try my faith. It’s “the testing of your faith,” in verse 3. It’s only a test. Number two, we are tested by God to prove the value or the worth of our faith, which cannot be tested, cannot be trusted. God tests or tries our faith, not to destroy us, not to prove that we can fail, but to show its worth or value. That it is real and genuine.
- **We see Abraham being tested or tried by God in (Gen 22:2)** *Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."* What an absolute supreme trial or a test! How could Abraham reconcile this? In **(Heb 11:19)** *concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.* Abraham knew “that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead,” if need be. So Abraham got up the next morning bright and early. He saddled his donkey, got the wood, got the knife, got Isaac and they set off on their journey to the land of Moriah.
- **When they got to the mountain, God spoke to Abraham and said that this is the spot.** They were going up the mountain when Isaac said, “My father! Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” Abraham said to his son, “**God will provide Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.**” God would

give Himself on the Cross one day, in Christ, reconciling to world to Himself. It is that God would provide—the name is Jehovah Jireh. God would provide His own sacrifice!

- **We know that when Abraham lifted the knife—here’s the point of the test—God stopped him and said, “I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”** Then He said, "Take now your son, your only *son* Isaac, whom you love (first use in Bible), and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you. In verse 12 we see Abraham’s obedience in willing to offer his son, which is the first place where we see man’s obedience. (*Gen 22:12*) *And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."* So God blessed Abraham, multiplied him, and used him for His glory.
- **Patience! Count it all joy when you fall into these various trials, because God is developing, first of all, patience** in you, which is one of the characteristics that is so necessary for the foundations of our whole relationship with God. It’s learning to wait on God.
- **Think of how patient God is with us.** Over and over, God declares that He is long-suffering. And He surely is! He has suffered a lot longer than I would have suffered with the world today, and with a lot of people! But we are so impatient when it comes to God. If God doesn’t answer our prayer immediately, we start looking for alternatives. We feel, well, I’ve got to take it into my own hands. I gave God all day! What a mess we can make of things when we decide that we had better not wait for God, but do it ourselves.
- **God allows sufferings, trials, and afflictions in order for us to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** (*Mat 5:10, 12*) *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [12] Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*
- **Looking back on my life, seeing the testings that I went through,** I certainly wasn’t always joyful in those testings. But I sure am now! As I look back and see what God was working out in my life, through those many testings, I rejoice greatly for the fruit that came from the testings, the maturity that I gained as the result of going through those trials!
- **So let patience have her perfect work, or maturing work, that you might be fully mature, complete, wanting nothing!** That is, you are not lacking at all in maturity.

Jas 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach,

- (*Mat 7:7*) *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.*
- **James gets us four encouragements here, in prayer. First, God gives to all.** Second, God gives *liberally*; He doesn’t hold back. Third, God *doesn’t reproach us*. Aren’t you glad that when you pray, God doesn’t say, Stop asking. You asked Me to help you just the other day. Why are you calling Me again?" No; He doesn’t reproach us!

And it will be given to him.

- **Fourth, God will answer; “And it will be given to him.”** God always answers prayer. Jesus said, (*Luk 11:9*) *"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.* The tense of the verbs in Greek, means to keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking. Be persistent in prayer, and the door shall be opened. God has a liberal hand! He will not reproach! He will give to those who ask Him.
- (*Jer 29:11*) *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*
- **One of the lacks that we always have is that of wisdom.** You might be entire, wanting nothing, but *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally*, So oftentimes people say, what can I pray for you? And I always say, pray that I might have wisdom. Wisdom in making the many decisions that need to be made, daily. When you lack in wisdom, isn’t it glorious that we can ask God for wisdom? Our wisdom is so fallible.
- **How many of you have never made a mistake in your life?** You always made the wise choice. You bought property on Lido Island when it was three hundred dollars a lot. We can all look back, can’t we? Well, if I’d only....! If we lack in wisdom though, the wonderful thing is that God will give us wisdom. It’s amazing how there are many people who have a lot of knowledge but not much wisdom.

- **A pastor was out on the golf course with a friend who was a Ph.D.** As they were getting ready to tee off, it started to rain. And the fellow with the Ph.D. said, oh what shall we do? And the pastor said, I think we'd better get out of the rain. You see, it's wisdom that says, get out of the rain! Knowledge will tell you that it's raining. Wisdom will tell you to get shelter.
- **Let him ask of God, who gives to all men liberally, or freely *and without reproach*.** God doesn't scold you. He doesn't say, oh, you're so stupid! Don't you know better than that? You know, He doesn't reproach you, when you come to God for wisdom. He is so gracious; He gives to you. I think of some of the dumb things that I should have known, but God doesn't reproach me when I come to Him for guidance and for wisdom.
- ***and wisdom will be given to him.*** That's a glorious promise! God will give us wisdom in the decisions that we ask.
- **That wonderful proverb, (Pro 3:5-6) *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; [6] In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*** Notice, there are several qualifications to the, *He shall direct your paths*—we want that! But in order to have that, what must I do? First of all, I must not trust in my own understanding, but I must trust in the LORD with all my heart! I must not lean on my own understanding. Then I have to acknowledge Him. I have to ask. And He will direct my paths!

Jas 1:6 But let him ask (fourth key word) in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

- (Mar 11:23-24) *For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. [24] Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*
- **But let him ask in faith!** When I ask, it is so important that I ask in faith, *with no doubting!* Now that's not an easy task, either is it? Asking in faith with no doubting, no wavering!
- **For he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.** Have you ever been out on the stormy sea? The waves driven with the wind and tossed. So is the man who is asking God for wisdom, but his faith is wavering.

Jas 1:7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

Jas 1:8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

- (Jas 4:8) *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*
- **It's important that we just make a commitment!** I'm going to stand on the Word of God! Or I will fall with the Word of God. I'm not going to leave it! I'm not going to waver from my position. I'm going to trust God!
- **Often in our prayers, we give God the deadline.** I'll trust Him until 2 o'clock this afternoon. Then we begin to waver. We are not really stable. We're double minded. If God doesn't, then this is what I'll have to do. We have already planned our own plan of action if God doesn't come through.
- **But verses 6-8 say we are to ask in faith.** "*But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*" When you come to God in prayer, (Heb 11:6) *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.* May my, our, desire be to grow in faith.
- **When we are tried and tested, we should have a joyful attitude, an understanding mind, a surrendered will, a prayerful heart and have our eyes on the prize!**

Jas 1:9 Let the lowly brother (believer, possibly such as an orphan or widow) glory in his exaltation,

Jas 1:10 but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away.

- (Job 14:2) *He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue.*

- **Look at what God has done for us of low degree! Look how God has exalted us!** He has called us His children, His sons. Beloved, now are we the sons of God! What a great exalting of our lives, those of low degree!
- **Those that are rich, that they are brought low, because their riches aren't going to last** as it has been said, you've never yet seen a U-Haul trailer hitched to a hearse. It's just, naked I came in, naked I go out! Job said it of himself, but it's true of all of us! You don't take anything with you. As the flower of the grass, the riches shall pass away.
- **Let the lowly brother**, referring to a poor man, *glory in his exaltation, but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away.* Notice the contrast here. A poor man in life's trials is exalted, because of his spiritual blessings, whereas the rich man is humbled and brought into dependence upon spiritual blessings. The poor is brought up and the rich is brought down!

Jas 1:11 For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.

- **This life on earth is temporary! It doesn't matter whether you are rich or poor; we will all suffer.** You can be the richest person in the world and still get sick and die of an incurable disease. Your money and your riches can't save you in an hour of need. If you're trusting in uncertain riches, you're a fool. Trust in God! Put your faith in God and not in man nor in your riches! So the rich man is humbled in his trials; the poor man is exalted, because he's made rich in spiritual things.
- **To the poor believer, tempted to feel insignificant and powerless** because the world judges a person on the basis of money and status, James says: take pride in your exalted status in the spiritual realm as one seated in the heavenlies with Jesus Christ Himself.
- **To the rich believer, tempted to think too much of himself** because the world holds him in high esteem, James says: take pride not in your money or in your social position — things that are doomed all too soon to fade away forever — but, in contrast, in your humble status as a person who identifies with one who was “despised and rejected” by the world. The point is that Christians must always evaluate themselves by spiritual and not material standards. Maintaining such a perspective in a world that so insistently confronts us with a very different standard of measurement is not easy. But victory remains ours if we are truly trusting in Him and not in ourselves!

Jas 1:12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he

- **In v. 4, But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.** Patience or perseverance was said to produce a settled and complete Christian character. Here also it is patience, perseverance that brings God's blessing. This blessing, of course, is something that Christians can enjoy in this life, as they experience the goodness of God and the spiritual joy that He brings to us. But James's attention here is on the future culmination of that blessing, which the final part of v. 12 indicates. Christians who stand up under the test **will receive the crown of life** that God has promised to those who love Him!
- **(Jas 5:11) Indeed we count them blessed who endure.** You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful
- **Blessed is the man. We are told to rejoice when we experience temptations** and here in verse twelve, we are told—*blessed is the man!* The word, *blessed*, the root is, oh, how happy is the man *who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

the crown of life

- **(1Co 9:25) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.**
- **That glorious crown of life awaits the child of God** at the end of the road!
- **Paul writing to Timothy at the end of the road for his life,** said **(2Ti 4:6-8) For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. [7] I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. [8] Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.**

- **To the church of Smyrna, which was going to go through such terrible persecution** from the Roman Government, Jesus said, (*Rev 2:10*) *Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. be thou faithful unto death, and I will give to thee a crown of life!*

which the Lord has promised to those who love (fifth key word) *Him*.

- (*Mat 10:22*) *And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.*
- **Promised to those who love Him! So blessed is the man that endures the temptations and the testing,** for when he is tried, he shall receive **the crown of life**, which the Lord has promised to them that love Him!

SUMMARY

- **My brethren count, it all joy when you fall into various trials, which is the opposite response** that we naturally have to a time of trials or testing.
- **He's speaking about hardships or difficulties that come because of life that God allows in** order to use them **for our good and for His glory.** (*2Pe 1:6*) *to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,*
- **We are strengthened by our trials and testings. We need to remember that my trials will make me strong in working patience, steadfast endurance!** It's like steel that is strengthened when tried in the fire. **Trials are for our good and for God's glory.** My good and God's glory.
- **We are encouraged to ask God for His wisdom** from above, not worldly wisdom.
- **We are to ask in faith, without doubting, wavering or being double-minded.**
- **Blessed is the man who endures temptation, when approved, he will receive the promised crown of life,** given to those who love Him!
- **When we are tried and tested, we should have a joyful attitude, an understanding mind, a surrendered will, a prayerful heart and have our eyes on the prize!**
- **He has promised to complete that good work in each of us** who are truly His! (*Php 1:6*) *being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*

CLOSING SONG:

BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC Julia Howe/William Steffe (4:51/4:54)

1 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord. He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored, He has loosed the fateful lightening of His terrible swift sword. His truth is marching on.
(Chorus) *Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.*

2 I have seen him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps. They have builded him an altar in the evening dews and damps I have read his righteous sentence in the dim and flaring lamps. His day is marching on.
(Chorus)

3 In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea, With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me: As He died to make men holy, let us live to make men free, While God is marching on. (Chorus) (2 x)
Amen. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER:

- Father, we thank You again for practical applications to truth. And Lord, help us now to make those applications, that we might become doers of the Word and not just hearers of the Word.

Read and study James, Chapter One, verses 13-27!

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - Audio & notes from previous studies

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!
MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

Join Zoom Meeting -

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Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763>

**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).
THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY WILL BE MEETING, CC LIVING WORD, 17101 ARMSTRONG, IRVINE, CA, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!
MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340**

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