

#1



## ***James #1 FAITH'S LIFESTYLE***

***We are beginning a series on the letter of James.***

**Three New Testament men are named James:**

*James the son of Zebedee and brother of John*

*James the son of Alphaeus, one of the apostles*

*James the brother of our Lord*

***James, the Lord's brother is the writer of this epistle.***

*The Epistle James is thought to be the earliest of the New Testament's letters.*

*James is writing to the Twelve Tribes that were scattered in the dispersion between A.D. 45–48.*

*These early believers in Jesus Christ were scattered throughout Judea, Samaria, Europe, and Asia.*

*Most of them faced severe persecution for their faith.*

***During Christ's ministry, James and his brothers were unbelievers (Mark 3:21 and John 7:1–10).***

*John 7:5 said, "Even His brothers did not believe in Him."*

***After His resurrection, the Lord Jesus appeared to Peter then the twelve. After that, more than 500 saw him and then he visited James. (1 Corinthians 15:7)***

*This event brought James into a saving faith in Jesus Christ.*

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#2



***James needed a faith that works***

***James could not rest in his status or familial relation to the Lord.***

*He was with the believers in the Upper Room, Acts 1:14.*

*After Peter, James became the leader of the Jerusalem church (Acts 12:17).*

*James was involved in the Acts 15 Council at Jerusalem to settle the division that occurred in the church.*

***James still needed a Faith that Works.***

***We all need a faith that works.***

*We need a faith that works in good and bad times.*

*We are facing challenging days of transition.*

*Governmental alliances are being made and broken.*

*New technologies surface so rapidly that require constant change.*

*The political, social, and ethical mind of man is in transition.*

*Everything in our world is in constant flux.*

*This transitional environment is challenging our faith and stability.*

***One of the most difficult areas of the Christian life is the area of testing and temptation.***

#3



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***We need a faith that does not fail when we are in tested or in temptation.***

***James reveals the correct response to testing and temptation:***

*To testing he says: "consider it pure joy whenever you face trials of many kinds"*

*To temptations he says: "realize that God is not their source."*

#4



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***One of the best measurements of Christian maturity is how our faith works in times of trouble.***

*When God's people go through personal trials, they discover what kind of faith they really possess.*

***Trials not only reveal our faith; they also develop our faith and Christian character.***

The Jews to whom James wrote experienced severe trials and persecution.

James wanted to encourage them.

He told them to rejoice in their trials.

This is one of the most challenging things for us to do.

***How can you have joy in the midst of troubles?***

**James gives the answer in this first chapter.**

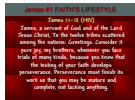
He shows us how to have confidence, faith, and joy in times of difficulty.

***Let's begin where James starts.***

***We can be sure of God's Purpose***

#5

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***James 1:1-12 (NIV) James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.***

#6

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***James 1:1-12 (NIV) If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.***

#7

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***That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. But the one who is rich should***

*take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower.*

#8

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*For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.*

#9

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*Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.*

***This faith believes that the experiences of a child of God are not an accident.***

*We know that God is in control.*

*Regardless of happens in life we know that God is in control.*

#10

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***We need to know if God is sovereign and in control.***

*Romans 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

*If God is not in control, we cannot know this.*

➤ **CLICK**

#11

***If God is not in control, there are two other possibilities.***

*First, Satan is in control.*

*Second, no one is in control, things just happen.*

*Paul said: “we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”*

*If God is in control, we can count it all joy.*

*We have a loving Heavenly Father who controls the affairs of this world.*

*One of our most important possessions is the ability to rest in faith in God.*

*God has a purpose for the events of life.*

***Do you believe that God is in control?***

*James says that when trials come we can count it all joy.*

#12

➤ **CLICK**

*James says: “count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”*

#13

➤ **CLICK**

***Did you notice that he did not say “IF” but “WHEN?”***

***It may be hard to accept, but you should expect trials to come.***

***Your faith is going to be tried.***

He says: “count it all joy **when you fall into various trials**, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

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#14

***In James 1:2 the Greek word πειρασμός (pi-ras-mos) “temptation” means “testing or trials”; while in James 1:13 the Greek πειράζω (pi-rad'-zo) for “tempt” means “solicitation to do evil.”***

God does not tempt you to do evil.

But, testing and trials will come.

#15

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***Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds.***

Trials should be faced with an attitude of joy.

Trials should not be seen as a punishment, a curse, or a calamity.

Trials should prompt rejoicing.

Trials should produce *“pure joy”* (literally, “all joy”; joy that is full or unmixed).

Not just “some joy” coupled with much grief.

*James’ command was direct and forceful, yet, he was not preaching at his audience.*

He identified with them.

He addressed them warmly as “my brothers.”

He was going through trials and suffering with them.

He still said, “be full of joy.”

#16



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*Why would God allow trials of your faith?  
Isn't life hard enough?*

*What is the purpose in trials?*

Trials are for the perfection of Christian character in God's children.

He wants His children to be mature (perfect).

Maturity is developed in the laboratory of life.

We cannot come to Christian maturity without the trial of your faith.

#17



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*The trial of your faith produces.*

*Trials can produce patience.*

**Romans 5:3 (NKJV)** we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance

*Perseverance is “endurance” or patience.*

Endurance leads the believer into deeper maturity in Christ.

- *Joseph went through thirteen years of testing before he could be raised to the position God had called him into.*
- *Peter spent three years in the school of testing before he was changed from shifting sand to rock!*
- *Paul went through many tests to develop and mature his character.*

***James did not say that a believer should be joyous for the trials but in the trials.***

#18

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***The verb περιπίπτω (per-ee-pip'-to) translated "face" might more literally be expressed as "fall into."***

Per-ee-pip'-to, describes the poor man who "fell among robbers" (Luke 10:30).

***The Lord describes a man who was severely abused by robbers.***

➤ **CLICK**

#19

***The "trials of many kinds", πειρασμός (pi-ras-mos), are referred to by Peter.***

***He used the same basic Greek word πειράζω (pi-rad'-zo) to test, scrutinize, examine, or prove.***

➤ **CLICK**

#20

***1 Peter 1:6 (NKJV) In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,***

***1 Peter 1:8 (NKJV) whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory***

***When surrounded by trials, we should respond with joy.***

Most people count it all joy when they escape trials.

James said to count it all joy in the midst of trials.

*It takes faith to trust God during the tests.*

*You have to know that God is in control and that He has a divine purpose in mind.*

*You have to know that God is not going to fail.*

*You have to know that when it is over, you are going to be a winner.*

**James demonstrated how faith works by discussing prayer and faith.**

➤ **CLICK**

**James 1:5-8 NIV** If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

#21



#22



➤ **CLICK**

*The test of faith challenges our trust in God.*

*Can you trust Him?*

**We don't always understand God's purposes or ways?**

**We don't always understand why things happen the way they do.**

**Satan always tempts us to ask, "Does God really care?"**

**If God really cared, why did this happen?**

***In order to attain Christian maturity and holy conduct, it is essential to have a firm foundation of faith in God.***

We must be able to stand with confidence.

We must know that we know.

We must not be pushed down by trials or doubts.

He must not be pulled over by temptation or unbelief.

#23

➤ **CLICK**

*You must have an expectation of God's aid  
(James 1:5–8).*

Trials often bring panic.

*When you don't know where to turn it is hard to know how to stand.*

This is why many people are afraid to make decisions, or constantly change their mind.

*James promised that God would show the way to those who ask.*

*The word "belief" suggests a willingness to respond and act on God's guidance.*

*If you waver or hesitate to respond obediently, you will not be able to receive what the Lord is eager to give.*

*When you pray you must believe that you shall receive it.*

#24

➤ **CLICK**

*How can we achieve this stamina of faith?*

*We can stand by pursuing, perceiving, and practicing the Word of God.*

*Trials from without and temptations from within are no match for a Christian who stands in the truth.*

*"I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep..."*

*How do you respond when trials and tests of your faith come?*

*Are you a complainer?*

*Do you groan when trials come?*

*Have you ever been improved by groaning and complaining?*

#25



***A test is given to see if a student can pass, not pass out.***

➤ **CLICK**

***James 1:12-15 NIV*** Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because ***when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life*** that God has promised to those who love him. When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

***Faith will bring us to a new sense of personal responsibility and trust in God.***

➤ **CLICK**

#26



***James knew that many different and difficult circumstances could stimulate a desire to turn away from God.***

***James had been through real life experiences and knew that he had to choose wisely.***

***James analyzed the situation carefully.***

Our troubles are not the things that tempt and try us.

***Our trouble is our reaction.***

***An alcoholic may be tempted by the smells from a brewery, while a tea drinker is repelled.***

***The odor is the same in each case.***

**What is different is the reaction the odor causes.**

***God allows no experience into our lives to drag us down.***

➤ **CLICK**

#27



***If we feel tempted, the problem is within our own inner desires.***

If you are going to live in faith and joy, you must deal with your temptations on this basis.

If we do not respond positively, our desires will grow into sinful acts.

Those initial acts will lead to a sinful lifestyle.

*The power of temptation comes from our own nature.*

*We must learn to respond as a new man in Christ.*

*In Christ Jesus, we have the victory.*

➤ **CLICK**

***What then is your expectation from God?***

#28

***James 1:16-18 NIV*** Don't be deceived, my dear brothers.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

***What do you expect from God?***

➤ **CLICK**

#29

***James reminds us to expect only good gifts from God.***

My faith looks to the Lord, and trust His goodness.

My faith balances life's tests, trials, and temptations with the Word of Truth.

***Faith calls us to adopt a new personal perspective on life.***

***I have to adjust my perspective.***

*Start expecting to receive wisdom from God.*

*Start expecting good and perfect gifts from God's hand.*

***Expect to hear from God and start acting on it.***

*Be identified with Christ.*

*Accept responsibility for rising over temptations and trials.*

*Expect to overcome.*

*Expect answers.*

*Expect Christ to be glorified in you.*

