



Faith in Action

The Perfect Trial

Questions Arising from John

- If Jesus is the Christ, and if he is the Son of God, and if we are saved by faith not works, then ...
 1. *What does real faith look like?*
 2. *Why do Christians face adversity in life?*
 3. *Are peace, wealth, and health the distinguishing signs of God's blessings?*
 4. *Do we really have to obey God?*
 5. *Why do our prayers not always get answered?*
 6. *How do we deal with suffering?*

Introduction to James

- ^{ESV} **James 1:1** James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.
- Keys
 - Author: James, the brother of Jesus
 - Date: Likely sometime in 45-62 AD
 - Audience: Jewish Christians scattered by persecution
 - Purpose for writing: Call to actively live under the lordship of Jesus Christ



The Blessings of Trials
James 1:2-18



Joyful Adversity

- ^{NIV} **James 1:1** James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. ² Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,
 - ^{KJV} **James 1:2** My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;
- Trials/Temptations
1. outward trial or process of testing
 2. inner enticement to sin



Why?

- We should count it pure joy when we fall into adversity because ...
- ^{NIV} **James 1:3** because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.
- ^{NIV} **James 1:12** 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.
- ^{NIV} **1 Corinthians 9:25** Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

- ^{NAS} **Romans 5:3** And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;
- ^{NAS} **2 Corinthians 4:17** For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,
- ^{ESV} **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.
- ^{NAS} **Romans 8:28** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

How?

- ^{NAS} **James 1:5** But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, ⁸ being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.
- ^{NIV} **Proverbs 2:3** and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, ⁴ and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, ⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. ⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

- ^{NAS} **1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.
- ^{ESV} **2 Peter 2:9** then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials ...
- “Since we see that the Lord does not so require from us what is above our strength, but that he is ready to help us, provided we ask, let us, therefore, learn whenever he commands anything, to ask of him the power to perform it.”
 - *John Calvin*

Looking Through God's Eyes

- ^{NAS} **James 1:9** But let the brother of humble circumstances glory in his high position; ¹⁰ and let the rich man glory in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away. ¹¹ For the sun rises with a scorching wind, and withers the grass; and its flower falls off, and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.
- ^{NAS} **Matthew 23:12** "And whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.
- ^{NIV} **Matthew 6:19** "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- ^{NAS} **Jeremiah 9:23** Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD.
- ^{NAS} **1 Corinthians 1:27** but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the despised, God has chosen, the things that are not, that He might nullify the things that are, ²⁹ that no man should boast before God.

Tested not Tempted

- ^{NIV} **James 1:13** When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. ¹⁶ Don't be deceived, my dear brothers.
- "But while God may test or prove his servants in order to strengthen their faith, he never seeks to induce sin and destroy their faith."
 - *Douglas Moo*

Every Perfect Gift

- ^{NAS} **James 1:17** Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow. ¹⁸ In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures.

- Trials
- Endurance
- Wisdom
- Spiritual maturity
- Poverty and wealth
- Crown of life

- ^{NIV} **Luke 11:9** "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹²Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Conclusion

Blessed by Grace

- ^{NAS} **1 Peter 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Purified through Trials

- ^{NAS} **1 Peter 1:6** In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, ⁷ that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ⁸ and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

The Perfect Trial

- ^{NIV} **James 1:2** Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds ... ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.