

James

Lesson 1

“Blessed is a man who perseveres
under trial;”
James 1:2-18

Who Was James?

- Several men with the name James are mentioned in the New Testament
- Most attribute the book of James to James, the brother of the Lord Jesus

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Jesus Had A Brother Named James

Mat 13:55 "Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?"

Joh 7:5 For not even His brothers were believing in Him.

3

The Resurrected Lord Appeared To James and He Becomes A Disciple

1Co 15:7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;

4

James Confirmed The Gentiles Could Be Saved Without The Law of Moses

Gal 2:9 and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we *might go* to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

5

James Confirmed The Gentiles Could Be Saved Without The Law of Moses

Act 15:19 "Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles,
Act 15:20 but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood.

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To Whom Was James Written?

Jas 1:1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

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Purpose of the Book of James

- James writes about how saving faith must act after receiving the Word of God
- Displaying a mature faith will help overcome individual as well as congregational trials
- Faith that only professes belief or confines itself to performing empty rituals will not save us

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Introduction

- Whether we are Christians or not, life is filled with trials
- Emotional and physical suffering comes to all of us in one form or another
- As Christians, we have also trials involving the testing of our faith by various temptations and also persecutions against our faith in the Lord

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Introduction

- Is there any good purpose behind these trials?
- What is God's role in the trials that we face?
- How should we respond to these trials?
- James provides the answers so that we may persevere in trials rather than shrink or abandon our faith

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“Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial;”

1. Our attitude toward and purpose of trials 1:2-4
2. Need for Divine wisdom to face trials 1:5-8
3. Enduring trials of poverty and riches 1:9-11
4. Persevering trials has an eternal reward 1:12
5. Do not blame God if we give in to temptations 1:13-18

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Be Joyous When You Fall Into Various Trials

- Experiencing a variety of trials in this life is unavoidable
- Trials for the Christian include not only those shared with the world like physical suffering but also persecutions from those who hate the Lord and the Truth
- When facing a variety of trials, we are to consider these circumstances to be joyous not become ungrateful or embittered

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Be Joyous When You Fall Into Various Trials

Jas 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

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Be Joyous When You Fall Into Various Trials

Luk 6:23 "Be glad in that day and leap *for joy*, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets.

1Pe 4:13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

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Be Joyous When You Fall Into Various Trials

Act 5:40 They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and *then* released them.

Act 5:41 So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for *His* name.

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Be Joyous When You Fall Into Various Trials

Act 5:42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

16

Word Encounter Means To Fall Upon Suddenly

Luk 10:30 Jesus replied and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead.

Act 27:41 But striking a reef where two seas met, they ran the vessel aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern *began* to be broken up by the force *of the waves*.

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Purpose of These Trials That Our Faith Might Be Complete

- We can rejoice in trials because there is a Divine purpose behind them that our faith which moulds our character may be genuine, mature and complete
- Many trials that bring many tests help us that we may endure making the right choices based on God's Word

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Purpose of These Trials That Our Faith Might Be Complete

- Over time and many trials, we can rid ourselves of selfishness, pride, ingratitude, covetousness and all other sinful attitudes
- Over time and many trials, we have opportunity to develop reverence, patience, humility, love, mercy, gratitude, honesty and all else God demands
- The Christian should be glad to have many tests instead of a few that our faith may truly be developed

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Trials Test Our Faith Producing Endurance That Leads To Maturity and Completeness

Jas 1:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,
Jas 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.
Jas 1:4 And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

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Endurance or Patience Means Steadfast and Constant In The Face of Trials

1Pe 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials,
1Pe 1:7 so 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;

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Endurance or Patience Means Steadfast and Constant In The Face of Trials

1Pe 1:8 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,
1Pe 1:9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

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Endurance or Patience Means Steadfast and Constant In The Face of Trials

Rom 5:3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;
Rom 5:4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;
Rom 5:5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

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Need For Divine Wisdom To Face Trials

- The Scriptures and our own experience tell us we are incapable of correctly guiding ourselves through this life
- Divine wisdom is the insight we need to make right choices based upon Divine knowledge from the Scriptures
- Acting wisely we can endure trials developing a godly character
- If we ask in faith, God will supply us with this needed wisdom

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Human Beings Are Incapable of Morally Guiding Themselves

Jer 10:23 I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.

Pro 28:26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But he who walks wisely will be delivered.

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Ask In Faith For Wisdom Not Doubting

Jas 1:5 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.

Jas 1:6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

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Ask In Faith For Wisdom Not Doubting

Jas 1:7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

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

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Ask In Faith For Wisdom Not Doubting

Col 1:9 For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

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“Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial;”

1. Our attitude toward and purpose of trials 1:2-4
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5. Do not blame God if we give in to temptations 1:13-18

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Enduring Trials Of Poverty And Riches

- Poverty often embitters us as we envy the rich
- Riches can deceive us to trust in material things rather than in God
- Whether rich or poor, these are temporary conditions
- Our concern here on earth is to humble ourselves before and glorify God by following His Word

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Poverty Can Make Us Bitter

Pro 31:6 Give strong drink to him who is perishing, And wine to him whose life is bitter.

Pro 31:7 Let him drink and forget his poverty And remember his trouble no more.

Job 2:9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!"

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Pride In Riches Can Deceive Us

1Ti 6:9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

1Ti 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

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Must Be Humble Before and Trust In God Whether Rich or Poor

Jas 1:9 But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position;

Jas 1:10 and the rich man *is to glory* in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away.

Jas 1:11 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.

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Must Be Humble Before and Trust In God Whether Rich or Poor

Luk 14:11 "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

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Persevering Trials Has An Eternal Reward

- If we endure temptations and seek to please God in our thinking and conduct, we will receive the crown of life, eternal reward from God
- The desire to please God should be stronger than any earthly desires

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Persevering Trials Has An Eternal Reward

Jas 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.

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Persevering Trials Has An Eternal Reward

1Co 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

1Co 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, so that you will be able to endure it.

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Persevering Trials Has An Eternal Reward

1Co 10:14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

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Persevering Trials Has An Eternal Reward

2Ti 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

2Ti 4:8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

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Persevering Trials Has An Eternal Reward

Rev 2:10 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

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Do Not Blame God If We Give In To Temptations

- As we just studied, God wants us to persevere through trials and obey His Word that we might be approved by Him and be with Him
- But, at times when we choose to yield to Satan's enticements for us to sin, we should never blame God
- He is holy, separated from sin and does not entice anyone to do evil

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Do Not Blame God If We Give In To Temptations

Jas 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.

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God IS Holy, Separated From Sin

1Pe 1:14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance,

1Pe 1:15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior;

1Pe 1:16 because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

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God IS Holy, Separated From Sin

1Jn 1:5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

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We Must Not Blame God For The Sinful Choices We Make

Gen 3:11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

Gen 3:12 The man said, "The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate."

Gen 3:13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

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We Must Not Blame God For The Sinful Choices We Make

Eze 18:2 "What do you mean by using this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, 'The fathers eat the sour grapes, But the children's teeth are set on edge'?"

Eze 18:3 "As I live," declares the Lord GOD, "you are surely not going to use this proverb in Israel anymore.

Eze 18:4 "Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die."

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It Is My Fault When I Submit To Satan's Temptations For Me To Sin

- When we choose to think, desire and further act in a sinful way, we are willingly following Satan's temptations
- James gives two vivid pictures of what happens when we allow our desires and actions to be corrupted by sin
- Yielding to temptation and not receiving forgiveness of sins will result in our spiritual death

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Picture 1 Taking The Bait

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

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Picture 2 Conception of Stillborn Child

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

Jas 1:16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

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Punishment For Unforgiven Sins Is Our Spiritual Death

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rev 21:8 "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

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God Is Good and The Giver of All Perfect Gifts

- God is good, not evil
- He gives all good and perfect gifts including His Word
- Through His Word, the gospel, we are given spiritual life
- Begins at baptism for forgiveness of sins and continues as we let His Word make our thinking and conduct according to His will

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God Is Good and The Giver of All Perfect Gifts

Jas 1:17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

Jas 1:18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

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Through The Word, The Gospel, We Are Given Spiritual Life

Joh 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

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Through The Word, The Gospel, We Are Given Spiritual Life

Rom 6:3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

Rom 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

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Through The Word, The Gospel, We Are Given Spiritual Life

1Pe 1:22 Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,

1Pe 1:23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is*, through the living and enduring word of God.

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Through The Word, The Gospel, We Are Given Spiritual Life

1Pe 1:24 For, "ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF,

1Pe 1:25 BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER." And this is the word which was preached to you.

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