

James

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James

- **James is a book of tests –**
 - **How do we deal with adversity? (James 1)**
 - **How do we speak and work. (James 2)**
 - **Have we tamed our tongue? (James 3)**
 - **Have we repented? (James 4)**
 - **Have we endured? (James 5)**

James

- **James is a book of tests –**
 - **The test of blame in temptation.**
 - **The test of how we respond to the Word.**
 - **The test of an impartial love to others.**
 - **The test of righteous works.**
 - **The test of the tongue.**
 - **The test of humble wisdom.**
 - **The test of worldly indulgence.**
 - **The test of dependence.**
 - **The test of patience.**
 - **The test of truthfulness.**
 - **The test of prayerfulness.**

James

- **Psalm 17:3** You have tested my thoughts and examined my heart in the night. You have scrutinized me and found nothing wrong.
- **Psalm 26:1** Declare me innocent, O Lord, for I have acted with integrity; I have trusted in the Lord without wavering. **2** Put me on trial, Lord, and cross-examine me. Test my motives and my heart.
- **2 Corinthians 13:5** Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine.

James

- **So testing our faith is important to the Christian – for assurance and for corrections that need to be made.**
- **Better to test your faith now than to wait until Jesus tests it forever.**
- **1st John provides (5) spiritual (inward) tests for faith – James tests us in the practical.**

James 1:1-4

- This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing to the "twelve tribes"—Jewish believers scattered abroad. Greetings! 2 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. 3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. 4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

**What are the sources of
trouble in our lives?**

James 1:1-4

- The extreme and certain language of James – it wasn't enough to say that trouble brings opportunity.
- His language is more like “woohoo, I am so glad that I am in pain!”.
- I choose to focus on the word opportunity, because it can just as easily be a lost opportunity.

James 1:1-4

- **We have anything but total control over what trouble comes our way, but we do have control over how we respond.**
- **How we respond to life's pains I believe is often a reflection of our view of eternity and eternal values.**
- **No matter how bad things may get, all is not lost for the Christian.**

James 1:1-4

- **James does explain the opportunity that pain presents to us – it gives us a chance to exercise and strengthen our faith.**



James 1:1-4

- So one test for us is this – how do we handle adversity when it comes our way?
- Correct perspective will allow us to pass through the flame with a joyful attitude.
- Flames still burn and pain still hurts, but if we see our pain as a temporary condition that can be used to glorify God – well, that is a different situation.

James 1:5-8

- **If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. 6 But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. 7 Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.**

James 1:5-8

**There are some interesting opinions
on the concept of 'asking in faith' –
what is yours?**

James 1:5-8

- James tells us that if we need wisdom in our pain we should ask God and He will provide it.
- Sounds so easy, does it not?
- Have you ever asked God for wisdom or direction, and you were still uncertain? Why is that so?

James 1:5-8

- **God does not play ‘hide and seek’, but we do have to know that He has already provided most, if not all, of the wisdom we need.**
- **He’s given His truth and His Spirit to guide us into all truth.**
- **We sometimes want an angel to speak to us when the Lord of Heaven has already spoken.**

James 1:5-8

- **We are warned in this passage that faith is critical to seeing, understanding and applying the wisdom of God.**
- **When he says a double-minded man is unstable he is not talking about the unsaved man.**
- **He is talking about the believer who values the world's wisdom equally as much as God's wisdom, and the two do not mix well.**

James 1:5-8

- **The best example I have is the giving of money to the Lord's work.**
- **There are few, if any, investment advisors that advocate giving the first fruits of our income to the Lord.**
- **Yet, there is no better place to receive a return on your money. (just not necessarily here and now)**

James 1:9-11

- **Believers who are poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them. 10 And those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them. They will fade away like a little flower in the field. 11 The hot sun rises and the grass withers; the little flower droops and falls, and its beauty fades away. In the same way, the rich will fade away with all of their achievements.**

James 1:9-11

What do you make of James' statements regarding the rich and the poor?

Believers who are poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them. 10 And those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them. They will fade away like a little flower in the field.

James 1:9-11

- **Both the poor and rich benefit from conversion to Christ.**
- **The poor have been made joint heirs with Jesus and have a very bright future.**
- **The rich have been blessed to understand that this life is not all there is.**

James 1:9-11

- **As I observe our world, and what it values, I suspect there are few who believe what James says about the achievements of the rich.**
- **Look at the buildings we build – the names of the people to which we dedicate our buildings are always the rich and the famous.**
- **Why? Because quite often they donated large sums of money to have their names engraved on the facility. (they have no desire to fade away)**

James 1:12-15

- **12** God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. **13** And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, “God is tempting me.” God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. **14** Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. **15** These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

James 1:16-18

- **16 So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. 17 Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. 18 He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.**

James 1:19-21

- **19 Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. 20 Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires. 21 So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.**

James 1:22-25

- **22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. 23 For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. 24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. 25 But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.**

James 1:26-27

- **26 If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless. 27 Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.**

Questions