

## James Chapter 1

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### KEY WORDS IN JAMES 1

Wisdom Unspotted  
Fruits Endurance  
Crown Hear <sup>Perfect</sup> First Law  
Hearers Speak **WORD** Liberty  
Trials <sup>Life</sup> Doubting  
Faith <sup>Sin</sup> Desire <sup>Lust</sup> Doers  
Patience Wrath  
Temptation Righteousness

### READ JAMES 1:1-4 THE TRIALS OF OUR FAITH

The writer of James encourages believers to have patience during trials, and to endure them. Read the following definitions of ‘endurance’ and ‘patience’, then answer the questions below:

**ENDURANCE** One of the virtues of the Christian life cited in the New Testament, produced during suffering and which itself could produce character (Rom. 5:3–4). The Greek term (Gk. *hypomonē*) suggests “tolerance,” “forbearance,” “patience” (KJV, JB), and “perseverance” (NIV). *See also* PATIENCE.<sup>1</sup>

**PATIENCE** Active endurance of opposition, not a passive resignation. Patience is endurance, steadfastness, long-suffering, and forbearance. God’s people are to be patient. The psalmist learned to be patient when confronted with the prosperity of the wicked (Ps. 37:1–3, 9–13, 34–38). Christians should face adversity patiently (Rom. 5:3–5). Patience is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22). Christians need patient endurance in the face of persecution. Perseverance is part of maturity (James 1:2–4).<sup>2</sup>

What effect does endurance and patience have on your faith life?

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KJV King James Version

JB Jerusalem Bible

NIV New International Version

<sup>1</sup> Myers, Allen C. *The Eerdmans Bible dictionary* 1987 : 335. Print.

<sup>2</sup> McWilliams, Warren. “Patience.” Ed. Chad Brand et al. *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* 2003 : 1252. Print.

As believers, we often face trials that are difficult. According to James, there is a Godly purpose for trials. List three of those purposes here:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Since we know that God has purpose to our trials, we should consider our trials to be what?

**REFLECT** on a previous time in your life that you faced a trial...

- Now recall God's activity during the trial.
- What lessons were learned because of that trial?
- In what ways did your faith increase?

### **READ JAMES 1: 5-8    DEALING WITH DOUBT**

One of the challenges that believers face is understanding the difference between an attack of the enemy, and a test of one's faith.

- What imagery does James use concerning doubt?
- What effect does doubt have on the Christian faith?
- What does James offer as a corrective to doubt?

List Eight Key Words found in Verses 1 thru 8

T\_\_\_\_\_ F\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_ □□□□□□□□

W\_\_\_\_\_ D\_\_\_\_\_ E\_\_\_\_\_ J\_\_\_\_\_

**READ JAMES 1:9-11** □ □□□ □ □□□□□

What are the things in your life that give you a sense of security?  
**Be Honest.**

- \_\_ House      \_\_Car      \_\_Bank Account      \_\_Savings Account
- \_\_Investments      \_\_Career      \_\_Cash Money      \_\_Good Credit

A primary need for all people is to have a sense of security. As believers, the bible encourages our dependence on God. Yet, in our living, we often place our trust in material possessions (houses, collections, investments, etc.) to give us a sense of security in our lives.

What does James say about our dependence on Riches?

What does James say that eventually happens to material wealth?

## READ JAMES 1:12-16 □□□□□□ □□□ □□□□□□□□

In this opening chapter of James, the writer pulls out all the stops and puts his finger on all the hot-button issues in the life of a believer – fear, doubt, security, and now temptation. He writes:

*12 Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup>No one, when tempted, should say, 'I am being tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. <sup>14</sup>But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it; <sup>15</sup>then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death. <sup>16</sup>Do not be deceived, my beloved.*

### WHAT IS TEMPTATION?

a strong urge or desire to have or do something

something that causes a strong urge or desire to have or do something

especially something that is bad, wrong, or unwise.

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he included these words:

*"...lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil..." Matthew 6:13*

According to James:

- Does God ever use “temptation” to test believers?
- Where do temptations come from?
- What do inappropriate desires result in?
- What is end result of our giving in to temptations?

James says that “anyone who endures temptation is \_\_\_\_\_”.

Also, “the one who stands the test will receive \_\_\_\_\_”.

*See Revelation 2:10-11*

## READ JAMES 1: 17-21 GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN TIMES OF TRIALS

One of the encouragements in the Book of James is a strong reminder of God's great faithfulness towards us. God's faithfulness is not dependent upon our circumstances. God's faithfulness never changes.

### Re-read verse 17:

*17 Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

Now, meditate on the first stanza to the Hymn entitled "Great is Thy Faithfulness"<sup>3</sup>

1 "Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.  
"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!

## READ James 1:17-21 TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS VS RELIGION

There is a purpose for everything that we go through in our faith walk. Faith is not simply a belief that God is present, but our actions during times of persecution and trials should bear witness to our faith and to the testimony to God's faithfulness.

*"<sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. "*

God is the essence of truth and this quality should be reflected in the character of his children.  
Falsehood is condemned in Scripture, . . . but truth is praised and advocated.  
God takes pleasure in truth and honesty, which are marks of an upright person.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> © 1923. Ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188 www.hopepublishing.com

<sup>4</sup> Manser, Martin H. *Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies*. London: Martin Manser, 2009. Print.

## **WALKING THE TALK - Fill in the blanks:**

Your \_\_\_\_\_ does not produce God's \_\_\_\_\_.

Welcome with \_\_\_\_\_ the implanted word of God.

God's Word has the \_\_\_\_\_ to save your \_\_\_\_\_.

Be \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word, and not merely \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word.

Those who "DO" God's \_\_\_\_\_ will be B\_\_\_\_\_.

### **The writer of James gives two important instructions for our interactions with others – especially during times of trials:**

- Be Quick to Listen
- Be Slow to Speak

Take a few minutes to consider or discuss how your own experiences of mistreatment or injustice might change by following his instructions.

### **READ JAMES 1:26-27 A HEART CHECK**

*26 If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless.  
27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.*

With thanksgiving for this first chapter of James, take a moment to offer a sincere prayer to God for a heart that is pure, for ears that are quick to listen, and for a tongue that is slow to speak...

I pray that the Poem on the following page will be of encouragement to you.

## “The Trials of our Faith”<sup>5</sup>

The trials of our faith,  
are more precious than gold  
as God is refining us  
for Him, to be bold.  
They’re teaching us to trust,  
God in and for everything  
for He knows our faith  
always needs strengthening.

The trials of our faith,  
keeps us, looking forward  
the hope that is to come  
stops us, looking backward.  
For our thoughts will turn,  
to the coming of our King  
and all the glory hallelujahs  
one day we’re going to sing.

These trials and testings,  
purify our faith and trust  
for God is perfecting . . .  
His image, right into us!

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<sup>5</sup> Belka, Debra Ann. 2016. Accessed online at <https://poetrybydeborahann.wordpress.com>