

Trust that God will use your trials

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. (James 1:1)

James is an inspired disciple-maker who wants to train you to put your faith in motion. If you embrace his teaching, your life will be blessed.



The book of James: A very wise book

- The book of James is a Jewish book, with lots of similarities to the OT book of Proverbs and the NT _____.
- The book reflects the simple wisdom, morality, and ethics of a Christ-follower. The book is not as concerned with sophisticated theological arguments as it is with how you live out your faith.

Which James?

- Probably not the son of Zebedee and brother of John; that James died in AD 44, too early to have written the book.
- Probably not James the Younger (son of Alphaeus) or James the Father of Judas, since neither had the name recognition this book presumes.
- Most likely the _____, who went from a doubter to a pillar in the church (John 7:5; Acts 21:18; 1 Cor. 15:7). The historian Eusebius says that James "frequently entered the temple alone and was frequently found situated upon his knees asking forgiveness for the people, so that his knees became hard after the manner of a camel." He was martyred around AD 62. This man knew what faith in motion looks like.

1. Be glad that you have trials: they're the only way to become strong

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (James 1:2-4)

- Trials form the _____ where strength is developed.
- If you want real joy, look for it in your trials, where strength is forged. The joy of the weak is _____. The joy of the strong is _____.

2. Ask for God's wisdom and expect that He will give it

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. (James 1:5-8)

- God can give you the wisdom to see victory in every trial. Bad things happen, but _____?

3. Don't trust your stuff

Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits. (James 1:9-11)

- It's tempting to assume that our stuff can save us. But in the end, everybody faces trials. You will be tested. Learn to _____.

4. Tests come from all around, but how you respond is _____

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. (James 1:12-16)

- Trials may come from within, from without, from Satan, or even from God. But how you respond to those trials is up to you. You are responsible for your attitude. You are responsible for your temptations. You are responsible for your faith.

5. Trust the goodness of an _____ God

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. (James 1:17-18)

- God never changes, so you can depend upon every promise He ever gave. Trust Him: God will provide.
- Since He gave birth to us, He will take care of us. If you are born of Christ, _____.