

James:
Proverbs of the New Testament



James 1:1-11

Trials and Temptations
Listening and Doing

General Plan

Exegesis

- Look at Verses
- Check any facts / culture / grammar etc.
- How does other Scripture help clarify or give supporting evidence?
- Actionable Items?

James 1:1-27

Trials and Temptations

Listening and Doing

James 1:1-27

**Trials and Temptations
Listening and Doing**

Dennis Cole
James 1
Presentation
Narrow Gate
Theater

James 1:1-18

Trials and Temptations

James 1: 1

¹ James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.

James 1: 1

1:1 “James” - the Greek form of the common Hebrew name ----- Jacob

Not pseudonymous

James does not specifically identify himself or his relationship to Jesus

This humility characterizes NT authors

James 1: 1

12 Tribes -

Still considered 'Jewish'

Transition to 'Christian'

James 1:2-3

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

James 1:2-3 Hardship

What is the purpose of Trials?

(Romans 5:1-5, 1 Peter 1:3-7)

Perseverance

Not - "if" you face trials,
but "whenever" you face them.

He assumes that we will all have trials and
can profit from them.

Application James 1:2-3 Hardship

What is the purpose?

The point is not to be happy when you face pain,
but to have a positive outlook because of what
trials can produce in our lives.

James tells us to turn our hardships
into times of learning.

1 Peter 1:3-7

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3-7

⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Romans 5:1-5

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **2** through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:1-5

3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; **4** perseverance, character; and character, hope. **5** And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

James 1:4

4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:4 Perseverance

Leads to maturity and completeness

2 Cor 6:3-7 persevering in trials leads to purity, understanding, patience, kindness, and love.

2 Peter 1:3-9 perseverance is part of a process; that it is one step we must go through to demonstrate that our faith is genuine.

2 Corinthians 6:4-7

⁴ Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶ in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;

2 Peter 1:5-9

⁵ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection,

2 Peter 1:5-9

⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

James 1:5

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you

James 1:5 Wisdom

not 'knowledge'

- ability to make wise decisions in difficult circumstances
- "practical discernment."

James 1:5 Wisdom

How to Obtain?

Prayer

God-centered

James 1:5 Wisdom

Although wisdom originates with God,
it comes to us in many ways:

God	Prov 2:6, Dan 2:21
Holy Spirit	1 Cor 12:8, Eph 1:17
Fear of the Lord	Job 28:28, Ps 111:10
Listening to the wise	Pr 1:2, 13:20
Discipline	Pr 29:15
Admonishing one another	Col 3:16
Research and Education	Ecc 1:13, 17, 7:25

Characteristics Of A Wise Person

- *Purpose*
- *Humility*
- *Integrity*
- *Kindness*
- *Discernment*
- *Prudence*
- *Reverence For God*
- *Righteousness*
- *Diligence*
- *Understanding*
- *Heeding Correction*
- *Fairness*

James 1: 6-8

⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

Application

James 1: 6-8

Doubt

James says we must believe and not doubt.

For the Lord is faithful Ps 33:4

Jesus answers the prayers
of those who believe Matt 21:21-22

Psalm 33:4

⁴ For the word of the LORD is right and true;
he is faithful in all he does.

Matthew 21:21-22

²¹ Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and it will be done. ²² If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

James 1:9-11

⁹ Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. ¹⁰ But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower. ¹¹ For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

James 1:9-11 "spiritual contradiction" ?

Poor Person

Pride in his high position,

Glad that riches mean nothing to God,

Otherwise he would be considered unworthy.

Rich Person

Pride in his low position

Glad that money means nothing to God

Because money is easily lost

James 1:9-11

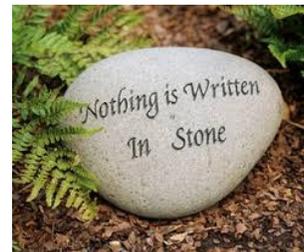
"spiritual contradiction" ?

Wealthy Christian is to take pride in
Trials that bring him low,
perhaps including the loss of his wealth.

In Jesus' parable of the sower... a rich man
Seed which came up a produced
a beautiful flower,
withered by the sun because it had no roots

In what should we take pride?

oxymoron to take pride in humility.



Most other references to pride in the Bible -- and
there are many -- speak of it as
sinful and warn against it.

Application

In what should we take pride?

Paul glories/boasts in

His service to God

Actions that are tested against the teachings
of Christ (and found satisfactory)

God-fearing churches

Boasts "in the lord"

God's view / World's view

Wealth

Wealth, power, and status mean nothing to God
-world gives much importance and honor

If your wealth, power, and status were gone,
you would have what is in your heart

The Heart is what matters to God
and endures for eternity.

James 1:1-11

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