

James 1:1-27 **Be Doers of the Word – Not Hearers Only – Value of Temptations**

Greeting to the Twelve Tribes

¹ James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad:
Greetings.

Profiting from Trials

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

The Perspective of Rich and Poor

⁹ Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, ¹⁰ but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. ¹¹ For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.

Loving God Under Trials

¹² Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. ¹⁸ Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

Qualities Needed in Trials – Right Choices to make

¹⁹ So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; ²⁰ for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

²¹ Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Doers — Not Hearers Only – Personal Choice is Required

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. 27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Greeting to the Twelve Tribes [James 1:1]

- ✚ James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings. [James 1:1]
- ✚ The most likely author of the book of James is the first born of the brothers of Jesus. [Matthew 13:55, Mark 6:3, Galatians 1:19]
- ✚ The brothers of Jesus did not believe in Him until Jesus appeared to them after His resurrection. [John 7:5, Acts 1:14, 1 Corinthians 1:5]

His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? [Matthew 13:55-56, Mark 6:3, John 2:12, 7:3-5]

- ✚ This James, the brother of Jesus, became prominent in the Church after the resurrection of Jesus and the death of James the brother of John, son of Zebedee. He was the leader who made the decision for the council in Jerusalem regarding Gentile believers, and whom Paul went to with the gifts from the gentile Churches. [Acts 15:13-21, 21:18, Galatians 1:19]
- ✚ At the writing of this letter, James does not claim to be the brother of Jesus, but a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. The resurrection of Jesus proved that Jesus was not an ordinary human brother, but was indeed the Son of God placing Him far above fleshly brotherhood, and James did not feel qualified to claim such closeness in relationship.
- ✚ The letter is a general letter to the twelve tribes of Israel scattered around the world, known as Jews.

Profiting from Trials [James 1:2-8]

- ✚ My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. [James 1:2-3]
 - ✧ We so often pray for patience to endure what we view as trials and tribulations, without realizing that it is these very trials that develop patience in us.
 - ✧ The value of patience is in the maturity it produces in our lives leading to perfect completeness in the fruit of the Spirit. [James 1:4, Romans 2:7, Galatians 5:22]
- ✚ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. [James 1:5]
 - ✧ Wisdom is from God and is of great value and highly encouraged in the book of Proverbs. [Psalm 111:10, Proverbs 1:2-7, 2:6, 10-12, 3:13-18, 8:11, 9:10]
 - ✧ God desires to give us wisdom, but it requires special effort on the part of the ones seeking it. [Proverbs 2:2-7, 21-22, 4:5-7, 9:10]
 - ✧ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. [James 1:6]
 - ✧ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. [James 1:7-8]
 - ✧ The ones who pray without faith, are double minded and unstable in all their ways, they are only praying selfishly with no understanding of God, therefore they can expect nothing from the Lord.

- ✧ It is from such people that you will hear statements like, "Don't tell me about God, I tried it and it didn't work." They were testing God for their own advantages. God said, "You shall not tempt the Lord your God." [Deuteronomy 6:16]
- ✧ This is the commandment Jesus quoted when tempted by Satan to draw attention to Himself by jumping off the top of the Temple to demonstrate the Scripture of [Psalm 91:11-12]. [Matthew 4:5-7, Luke 4:9-12]

The Perspective of Rich and Poor [James 1:9-11]

- ✧ This life is fleeting, the only thing that lasts is the future hope of eternity promised to those who believe.
- ✧ The believers who are poor in this world's possessions, have the hope of exaltation with crowns of glory (1 Peter 5:4), life (Revelation 2:10, 3:11), and eternal abundance in the life to come. [Matthew 15:29, 24:45-47, Luke 12:42-44, Isaiah 57:13b-19, Revelation 2:7, 9, 11, 17, 26, 3:5, 18, 12, 21, 2 Peter 1:2-4]
- ✧ The hope of those who are rich is in their humility and generosity which will earn God's blessing. [1 Timothy 6:17-19]
- ✧ Those who are rich tend to trust in their wealth to their own hurt. [Revelation 3:17-18]
- ✧ Earthly wealth is temporary at best and soon fades away like the flower of grass. [James 1:10-11]

Loving God Under Trials [James 1:12-18]

- ✧ Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the **crown of life** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. [James 1:12]
- ✧ Temptation brings a blessing only when the one tempted is victorious over it like Jesus who overcame temptation by the Word of God.
- ✧ Enduring trials and temptations builds strength of character.
- ✧ When the test is over, there is the promise of reward from God for the overcomers.
- ✧ Victory over temptation demonstrates our love for God and Christ Jesus. [John 14:23, 1 John 5:3]
- ✧ God can not be tempted by evil, and God Himself does not tempt anyone.
- ✧ Temptations come from the enemy (Satan) who uses our own desires to entice us to sin and draw away from God.
- ✧ When we yield to our desires it gives birth to sin.
- ✧ When sin is allowed to run its course and mature, the result is death and the Lake of Fire which is the second death. [Revelation 20:11-15, 21:8]
- ✧ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. [James 1:16-18]
- ✧ It is so easy to blame God when trials and temptations come, and we deceive ourselves of the true source of the problem being in our own sinful nature.
- ✧ Every good and perfect gift is from God the Father of lights.
- ✧ God never changes and with Him there is no variation or shadow of turning.
- ✧ The Lord created us by the Word of Truth with the purpose that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.
- ✧ As a kind of firstfruits, the believers have a special place of preference above the sinners and unbelievers and other creatures as seen in the eternal rewards promised for the faithful.

Qualities Needed in Trials – Right Choices to make [James 1:19-21]

- ✧ So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. [James 1:19-20]
- ✧ This is the choice required of believers when faced with trials and temptations.
- ✧ If we become angry and respond with wrath, we do not glorify the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- ✧ We need to take time to gain control of our reactions, and only respond after we have considered the outcome and influence it will have on others.
- ✧ Remember, self control is one of the valuable fruits of the Spirit. [\[Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 5:8-9, 2 Peter 1:5-7\]](#)

✚ Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. [\[James 1:21\]](#)

Doers – Not Hearers Only – Personal choice is required [\[James 1:22-27\]](#)

✚ But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. [\[James 1:22\]](#)

- ✧ Hearing the teaching of the Gospel message without acting on it is to deceive ourselves by thinking we have security and Salvation when we have not made it a part of our lives.

- ✧ Jesus worded it this way;

"Therefore **whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them**, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and **it did not fall**, for **it was founded on the rock**. [\[Matthew 7:24-25\]](#)

"But **everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them**, will be like a **foolish man** who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And **great was its fall**." [\[Matthew 7:26-27\]](#)

- ✧ Security is only assured for those who put the teachings of the Gospel message into practice in their lives and endure faithfully to the end.
- ✧ If we do not do as we are taught by the Scriptures, we only deceive ourselves regarding our relationship with the Lord.
- ✧ The ones who do as they are taught will be blessed in what he does.
- ✚ If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue he deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. [\[James 1:26\]](#)
- ✚ Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to **visit orphans and widows in their trouble**, and to **keep oneself unspotted from the world**. [\[James 1:27\]](#)