

A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES

*Genuine Faith*

I THE TEST OF GENUINE FAITH - James 1:1-18

LESSON 1 ~ The Purpose of Trials ~ James 1:1-11

KEY VERSE

*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials . . .* (James 1:2).

PONDER<sup>2</sup>

READ James Chapter 1:1-11.

WRITE the *word, phrase, or verse* that spoke to you the most. Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

INTRODUCTION

The Epistle of James is a sermon written to the twelve tribes of Israel who were Jewish Christians dispersed abroad. The author's aim was to rally Christians from their life of pursuing worldly pleasures to a life of practical Christian living. The most probable author of this Epistle is James the Just, the brother of Jesus (Matthew 13:55), who was also a pillar of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 15:3, Galatians 2:9). There is strong evidence that James is one of the oldest books in the New Testament which reflects the general situation found in the early apostolic church. It dates back to 44-62 A.D.

GREETING TO THE TWELVE TRIBES

READ James 1:1.

1. Four men named James are repeatedly mentioned in the New Testament. What is said about each one of them (Matthew 10:2, Luke 6:12-16, Mark 6:3)?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What do the following Scriptures reveal about James the brother of Jesus?

<sup>1</sup> Genuine: authentic, real.

<sup>2</sup> PONDER: think about and consider carefully God's spiritual truths as revealed in the Word of God.

Acts 1:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 12:16, 17 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 15:12-18 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 21:17-19 \_\_\_\_\_

I Corinthians 15:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 1:18, 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians 2:9 \_\_\_\_\_

3. How does James describe himself (James 1:1)? \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup>

To whom was he writing this Epistle? \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup>

Where were they? \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup>

### PERSONAL

How have you experienced a physical or spiritual *scattering* in your life i.e. a separation, divorce, persecution, forced to an unfamiliar place, or loss?

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<sup>3</sup> bondservant - Greek *doulos* a slave: bondman, servant, subservience, subjection, one who gives up himself to another's will; whose service is used by Christ in extending and advancing His cause among men.

<sup>4</sup> twelve tribes - Greek *phule* offshoot: race, clan, kindred, tribe, descending from one of the sons of the Old Testament patriarchs: Jacob's sons.

<sup>5</sup> scattered: dispersed among foreign nations.

**THE VALUE OF TRIALS**

READ James 1:2-4.

1. How does James exhort the scattered believers to respond in the midst of the trials<sup>6</sup> of life v. 2)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How are you encouraged and strengthened by I Peter 1:6-9? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What should the testing of your faith produce (James 1:3)? \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup>
4. How does the Word of God define *genuine* faith (Hebrews 11:1)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ <sup>8</sup>  
\_\_\_\_\_ <sup>9</sup>
5. What is the source of *genuine* faith (Romans 10:17)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What will be the end result of allowing patience to have its perfect work (James 1:4)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. LIST the Apostle Paul's prayer requests for believers (Colossians 1:9-11). \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL**

In what area of your life do you need patience? How will you allow patience to have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing (James 1:4 )?

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\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>6</sup> trials: temptations, adversity.

<sup>7</sup> patience - Greek *hupomone* (cheerful) endurance: constancy, continuance, perseverance, longsuffering.

<sup>8</sup> substance - Greek *hupostasis* confidence: foundation.

<sup>9</sup> evidence - Greek *elegchos* proof: test, conviction.

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**THE SOURCE OF WISDOM**

READ James 1:5-8.

1. What are we to do if we lack wisdom (v. 5)? \_\_\_\_\_  
How does God respond? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is essential in our asking for wisdom (v. 6a)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What danger lies ahead for those who approach God without faith and doubting (vv. 6b-8)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**LOOK DEEPER**

DESCRIBE God's wisdom.

Job 28:28 \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>10</sup>

Psalm 111:10 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 2:6 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 9:10 \_\_\_\_\_

Proverbs 15:33 \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>10</sup> the fear of the Lord: to reverence God; to stand in awe of who He is in His holiness (Isaiah 6:1-3).

**HUMAN GLORY VERSUS GOD’S GLORY**

READ James 1:9-11.

1. What are the lowly brother and the rich man to glory in (vv. 9, 10a)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the rich man compared to (vv. 10, 11)? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What does Isaiah 40:6-8 say about His Word? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. In Isaiah 57:15 how is God described? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Where does He dwell? \_\_\_\_\_

With whom does He dwell? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL**

Does this verse change your perspective on life? How? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the hope and reward to all believers who love God and endure trials and temptations (James 1:12, Revelation 2:10)?

\_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>11</sup> crown of life - Greek *stephanos* a badge of royalty: symbolic of Christ’s victory over death. God’s promise to all of us that in the resurrection we will share in the victory Christ has won.

WRITE out the KEY VERSE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*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



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Due to the holy nature of God, the first letter of all references to Him,  
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