

**James - Living Out Your Faith
"Persevering When Troubles Won't Go Away"**

James 1:1-18

Why does God put these words of James in the Bible? These words cut away every excuse that keeps us from living out our faith every day. Trials, temptations, the tongue, arguments, money, and wandering believers . . . these are practical lessons for living out our faith ... being a doer and not just a hearer of the Word.

James 1

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

²Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. ⁶But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

⁹The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. ¹⁰But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. ¹¹For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.

¹²Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

¹³When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. ¹⁵Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

¹⁶Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. ¹⁷Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Why is perseverance (patience) such an important Christ-like virtue (cf. Romans 5:3-5)? What do you take away from Christ's own example of perseverance? (cf. Heb 12:2-3) Why is our being mature and complete ("perfect", not lacking anything) so important to God?
 2. Notice verses 5-8. Compare the first phrase in this paragraph ("If any of you lacks wisdom") with the last phrase of the previous paragraph ("not lacking anything"). What is the connecting thought that links the two paragraphs?
 3. In 9-12, the phrase, "*take pride*" (9) is better translated "glory or boast" in joyous exultation. This phrase also follows the word "*rich*" (v. 10). If the rich in v. 10 are wealthy Christians, who is the "*brother in humble circumstances*"? How can a unwealthy Christian be exalted?
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