





Where do we go from here? ...and why?




What is the next step after Welcome Home?



What is the next step after MAKING ROOM?



What does the Lord want to say to us?

A person is walking away from the camera down a long, dark tunnel. The tunnel is illuminated by a bright light at the far end, creating a strong silhouette of the person. The walls of the tunnel are made of vertical panels, and the floor is wet, reflecting the light. The overall atmosphere is one of journey and hope.

If the church is going to be relevant
in the 21st century, it will have to be
mature, trustworthy, and faithful.

What does the Lord want to say to us?



A serious look at the the letter from *James*



Put Up or Shut Up

A serious look at the the letter from James



Well Done is better than Well Said

Attributed to Benjamin Franklin

A serious look at the the letter from *James*



Show Me the Money

Attributed to Jerry Maguire

A serious look at the the letter from *James*



Just Do It

Attributed to Nike

A serious look at the the letter from *James*



Be Mature

Attributed to Warren Wiersbe

A serious look at the the letter from *James*

A person is walking away from the camera down a long, dark tunnel. The tunnel walls are made of vertical panels, and the floor is wet and reflective. At the end of the tunnel, there is a bright light source, creating a silhouette of the person walking towards it.

Walk the Talk

A serious look at the the letter from James



WALK THE WALK

A serious look at the the letter from James

- 1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.
- 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,
- 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.
- 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

1 James, a servant of
to the twelve

2 Count it all joy, my
various kinds,

3 for you know that
steadfastness.

4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you
may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James

1 James, a servant of
to the twelve

2 Count it all joy, my
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4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you
may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James the Just,

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
to the twelve apostles

2 Count it all joy, my brothers,
various kinds,

3 for you know that the testing of your
steadfastness.

4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you
may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James the Just,
a half-brother of Jesus...

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
to the twelve apostles

2 Count it all joy, my brothers,
various kinds,

3 for you know that the testing of your
steadfastness.

4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you
may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James the Just,
a step-brother of Jesus...

- 1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
to the twelve apostles,
greetings.
2 Count it all joy, my brothers,
whenever you meet various kinds of
3 trials, for you know that the testing of
your faith produces steadfastness.
4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you
may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James the Just,
a cousin of Jesus...



WALK THE WALK

James 1:1-4

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
to the twelve apostles

2 Count it all joy, my brothers,
when you meet various kinds of trials,

3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces
steadfastness.

4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you
may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James the Just,

a half-step-brother, cousin of Jesus...

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve apostles, grace and peace from the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet various kinds of trials,

3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James the Just,

a half-step-brother, cousin of Jesus...

....can you imagine growing up a sibling or a close relative of Jesus?

- 1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve apostles, peace and mercy from our Father who is in heaven.
- 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet various trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.
- 3 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James the Just,
a half-step-brother, cousin of Jesus...
...not a follower of Jesus until after
the resurrection...

- 1 James, a servant of God and brother of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve apostles and to all who fear Him, grace and peace from the Father and the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet various trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.
- 3 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James the Just,
a half-step-brother, cousin of Jesus...
...not a follower of Jesus until after
the resurrection...
...leader of the early church in Jerusalem
along with Peter, until Peter escaped the
death threats of Herod Agrippa.

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve apostles, grace and peace from the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father.

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet various trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

3 And you know that the steadfastness that produces perfection is lacking in you. If you are lacking in any of these things, turn back to the Scriptures.

4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James the Just,
a half-step-brother, cousin of Jesus...

...tradition tells us he was martyred in the mid 60's. He was thrown off the pinnacle of the temple and clubbed to death.



WALK THE WALK

James 1:1-4

- 1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve apostles, grace and peace from the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father.
- 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet various kinds of trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.
- 3 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Important issues for the church
in the face of
growing adversity....
in the growing 'winds of war'...

- 1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
to the twelve apostles,
greetings.
2 Count it all joy, my brothers,
when you meet various trials,
3 for you know that the testing of your
faith produces steadfastness.
4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you
may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

**Favoritism and partiality
are totally out of bounds
for followers of Christ.**



WALK THE WALK

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to the twelve apostles,
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2 Count it all joy, my brothers,
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4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you
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**Generosity is totally consistent
with what it means to be
a follower of Christ.**

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to the twelve apostles,
greetings.
2 Count it all joy, my brothers,
when you meet various trials,
3 for you know that the testing of your
faith produces steadfastness.
4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you
may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

**Words matter...
and how you deliver those words
makes a huge difference.**



WALK THE WALK

James 1:1-4

- 1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
to the twelve apostles,
2 Count it all joy, my brothers,
various kinds,
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steadfastness.
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may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

**Wealth may have a profound
and unfortunate impact
on the human soul...
poverty may have
a protective quality.**



WALK THE WALK

James 1:1-4

- 1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve apostles, grace and peace from the Father and the Son, the Father of glory, our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet various kinds of trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.
- 3 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

**Endurance
through all the challenges of life
is a core part of living.**



WALK THE WALK

James 1:1-4

- 1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.
- 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,
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1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings

Doulos: servant, slave....

- 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.
- 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
to the twelve apostles in the Dispersion: Greetings

Doulos: servant, slave....

...more or less an indentured servant who
voluntarily surrenders his whole life in service of someone else.

3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces
steadfastness.

4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you
may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

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

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter trials of

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Diaspora: the dispersion of Israelites / Jews

- 722 BC- Assyrian dispersion (10 lost tribes of Israel)
- 586 BC- Babylonian dispersion (70 years of deportation)
- 70 AD- First Jewish-Roman War
- 132 AD- Romans expel all Jews from Jerusalem
- 1290 AD- Expulsion from Englan
- d
- 1492 AD- Expulsion from Spain
- 1948-1973 AD- Expelled from the Arab Countries of the mid-east

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Diaspora: the dispersion of Israelites / Jews

- 722 BC- Assyrian dispersion (10 lost tribes of Israel)
- 586 BC- Babylonian dispersion (70 years of deportation)
- 70 AD- First Jewish-Roman War (destruction of the 2nd temple)
- 132 AD- Romans expel all Jews from Jerusalem
- 1290 AD- Expulsion from England
- 1492 AD- Expulsion from Spain
- 1880-1920 AD- Dispersion from Russia
- 1948-1973 AD- Expelled from the Arab countries of the mid-east

- 1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.
- 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. **Greek: charis.....from the verb charis— grace.**
- 3 for you know that your steadfastness, when it has been tested, produces the fruit of righteousness, which will be given to you when you have persevered and have not been discouraged by the trials you are suffering. Instead, you have shared the sufferings of Christ, so that you will also have His glory.
- 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

- 1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.
- 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, **Greek: chario.....from the verb charis— grace.**
- 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ***‘to experience and delight in God’s grace’***
- 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

- 1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.
- 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,
- 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.
- 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Adversity is the tool God uses to grow our character and make us mature...



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character and make us mature...

...so...therefore...

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A person is walking away from the viewer down a long, dark tunnel. The walls of the tunnel are lined with vertical bars or pipes. At the far end of the tunnel, there is a bright light source, creating a silhouette of the person walking towards it. The floor is wet and reflects the light from the end of the tunnel.

Adversity is the tool God uses to grow our
character and make us mature...

...so...therefore...

*Are you willing to trust God
in the midst of your trials?*

A person is walking away from the viewer down a long, dark tunnel. The walls of the tunnel are lined with vertical bars or pipes. At the far end of the tunnel, there is a bright light source, creating a silhouette of the person walking towards it. The floor is wet and reflects the light from the end of the tunnel.

Adversity is the tool God uses to grow our
character and make us mature...

...so...therefore...

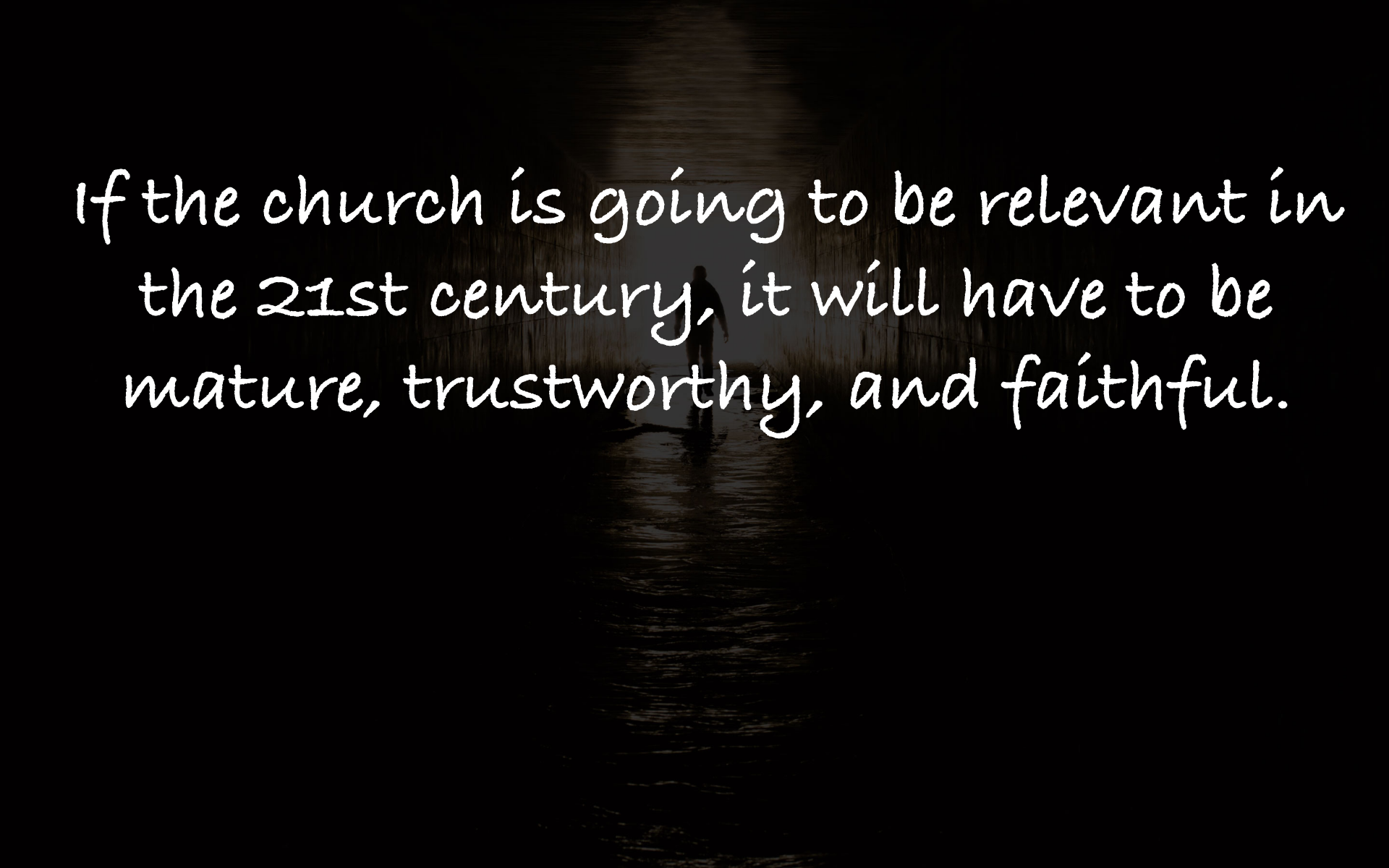
*Are you willing to look for
God's purposes through trials?*

A person is walking away from the viewer down a long, dark tunnel. The tunnel walls are lined with vertical pipes or conduits. At the far end of the tunnel, there is a bright light source, creating a silhouette of the person walking towards it. The floor is wet and reflects the light from the end of the tunnel.

Adversity is the tool God uses to grow our
character and make us mature...

...so...therefore...

*Are you ready to walk the walk
and not just talk the talk?*

A person is standing in shallow water, possibly a beach or a calm body of water, during a sunset or sunrise. The person is silhouetted against the bright light on the horizon. The water is dark, and the person's reflection is visible in the water. The overall scene is serene and contemplative.

If the church is going to be relevant in
the 21st century, it will have to be
mature, trustworthy, and faithful.