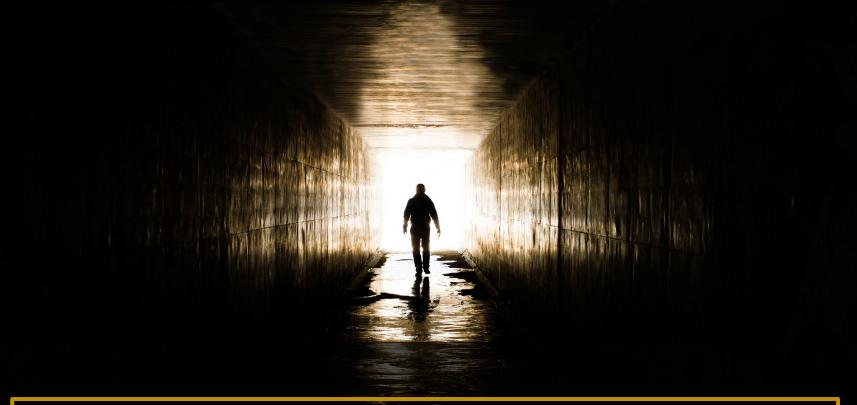




A serious look at the the letter from James



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

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

James 1:1-4

- James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve Important issues for the church
- 2 Count it all joy, my various kinds,
- ...in the growing 'winds of war'.

in the face of adversity....

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Trials are the tool
that God uses
to grow our character
and make us mature.



- If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.
- 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.
- 7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;
- 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Trials force us to need wisdom beyond ourselves and which God is pleased to give... so let's not be arrogant in presuming it but let's not be wishy washy doubting His ability and His inclination.

v.9-11

v.12-15

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- 9 Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation,
- 10 and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.
- 11 For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass, its flower falls, and its beauty perishes.

 So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

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Trials force us to remember what actually is important in life... all the material stuff of this world means nothing in light of eternity.

v.12-15

- 12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which god has promised to those who love Him.
- 13 Let no one say when he is tempted,
 "I am being tempted by God",
 for God cannot be tempted by evil,
 and He Himself tempts no one.
- 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.
- 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

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Trials have a deceptive side when we begin to think that God is somehow involved in trying to trip us up, to find and take advantage of our weak spots, rather than us taking responsibility for our sin.

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Trials force us to remember what actually is important in life... all the material stuff of this world means nothing in light of eternity.

- 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.
- 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.
- 18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.

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Trials' deceptive side prevents us from seeing God for who He actually is...
-the giver of every good gift
-the Father of lights
-the never changing, always faithful.

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God has willfully and purposefully created us to enjoy and to demonstrate His beauty in a world that has forgotten who He is and what He is like...

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...and He is using the trials in our lives as a tool to do it.

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