

EVERYDAY FAITH

**A WORSHIP SERIES
THROUGH THE
BOOK OF JAMES**



James 1: 1-8, 12

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:

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.

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⁵ 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.

1:12 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.

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The Book of James

^{1:1} James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the *twelve tribes* in the *Dispersion*...

- James is Jesus' half-brother (natural son of Mary and Joseph)
 - About 15 years after Jesus died and rose again
- To a collection of persecuted Jewish Christian house-churches

The Book of James

- 59 Commands in 108 verses
- “Wisdom” literature (parallels much of Proverbs and Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount) on what the Gospel looks like in everyday life.
 - What we are Free FOR (not just from)
- “Saved by faith alone, but not a faith that is (remains) alone” (Calvin, Luther)
- Central verse: James 4:6 *“But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”*

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Gospel Toolbox: This isn't meant for crisis counseling but Gospel Tools so we have the wisdom when the storm comes.

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The Storms

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



DESPAIR

IT'S ALWAYS DARKEST JUST BEFORE IT GOES PITCH BLACK.



MISTAKES

IT COULD BE THAT THE PURPOSE OF YOUR LIFE IS
ONLY TO SERVE AS A WARNING TO OTHERS.

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

Scripture is incredibly realistic about life, neither denying it's difficulties nor leaving us hopeless and helpless in them... all the while completely avoiding shallow platitudes.

- Relational
- Physical
- Financial
- Emotional
- Failures

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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***.

This is all about the object of our faith (“testing of your faith”) and our goals in life (i.e. happiness and personal satisfaction)

Trials / Testing



Steadfastness



Completeness

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We all have a blindingly small perspective of life and eternity.

2 Corinthians 4

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

God is WISE
enough to know
what is best

God is LOVING
enough to desire
what is best

God is POWERFUL
enough to produce
what is best

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Responding to Our Storms



Today we took all five kids with us when we put Tex down and all stayed in the room while he died. I don't know if this was the right thing. They asked a lot of questions. One cried a LOT. One seemed way too cheerful. A few didn't have much of a reaction, other than lots of questions. Rob and I would have preferred to say a goodbye while we weren't also parenting, I think. But together we got to see that fine line between life and death. We were honest about it. We encouraged the kids to have whatever reaction they had and not question how anyone else handled it. We talked about mourning with those who mourn. Then we went and saw a friend's new puppy.

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⁵ If any of you *lacks wisdom, let him ask God*, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

- Fear
- Despair
- Self

Faith that God is not loving,
wise, powerful.

VS.

- Prayer
- Peace
- Worship

Faith that God is bigger and
smarter, that I can trust him.

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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** (“two-souled”) man, unstable **in all his ways**.

“double minded...in all his ways.”

Refers not a strained faith but a deep-level rebellion against the character of God revealed “in all his ways.”

Mark 9:24

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!”

A Gospel Response to Trials:

“Help me believe...to trust you when I am blinded by this trial.”

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Redeeming Our Storms

1:12 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.

Luke 22:42

(Jesus) saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." ...

Mark 15:17

And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a ***crown of thorns***, they put it on him.

A God who voluntarily entered our darkest storm:

- 1) Empathize
- 2) Overcame and Reverses All Evil.
- 3) Secured Eternity

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Revelation 21:4

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

I am also the cause of trials in others, and I may never know “why” these hard things happened...

BUT I can trust the One that sent his Son.
And he won't waste one ounce of my pain.

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Gospel Applied

- 1) We all struggle with Gospel Amnesia, so we need to remind and be reminded of our Hope.
- 2) Echo the dad's prayer in Mark - "I believe; help my unbelief!"
- 3) Come alongside others in their pain with 2 ears and 1 mouth.

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