

# Show me your faith

James 2:18

## James 1:1-18

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

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. 6 But 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. 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

9 The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. 10 But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. 11 For 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.

12 Blessed 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.

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

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

## 1. In Trials and Temptations

### Christians will be tested by troubles

#### ▲ There is purpose in our trials

1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

- ▲ Today or tomorrow might move us – embrace that
- ▲ Trials may menace us – expect them
- ▲ Testing matures us – enjoy that

#### ▲ There is provision for our trials

1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. 6 But 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. 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

- ▲ Wisdom is promised
- ▲ Wisdom is pursued – (1) The Scriptures supply absolutes – (2) The Spirit supplies application
- ▲ Wisdom is powerful

#### ▲ There is a proper perspective in our trials and in our triumphs

1:9 The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. 10 But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. 11 For 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.

- ▲ Poverty will test your perspective – be happy
- ▲ Prosperity will test your perspective – be humble

#### ▲ There is promise past our trials

1:12 Blessed 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.

- ▲ Persevere through the present problems
- ▲ Press toward the promised prize

### Christians will be taunted by temptation

#### ▲ Recognize the source of temptation

1:13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

#### ▲ Realize the spiraling and the snowballing in temptation

1:14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

#### ▲ Resist the satanic subversion in temptation

1:16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers.

### Christians can triumph in times of testing

#### ▲ We have a powerful provider – receive from the Lord

1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

- ▲ Our settings and situations are like shifting shadows
- ▲ Our Savior is steady and strong, supplying and strengthening us supernaturally

#### ▲ We have a privileged position – rejoice in the Lord

1:18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of all he created.

- ▲ God's desire is not that we fall or fail or flail in frustration
- ▲ God's desire is that we flourish in fruitfulness

#### Action Assignments

1. Make a fresh commitment to stand strong and live for Jesus through every trial and every temptation!
2. Ask God today to fill you with fresh spiritual wisdom for maneuvering through difficult days and seasons!
3. Take inventory of every good gift and resource God has given you – employ them and enjoy them!
4. Give thanks to God for the privilege of living in the middle of his plans and purposes in this world!