



## **MESSAGE/SERIES:**

**Series: FAITH at WORK**

**Message: “Trials & Temptations”**

**DATE: January 16, 2022**

## **SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK:**

(These verses will help you understand themes within as you read our core text as scripture proves scripture)

**James 1:1-8, Matthew 7:7-13, Matthew 13:55 (Jesus’ half-brothers), Matthew 7:16**  
(Fruit matches the tree), Acts 12:17, Acts 5:41, 1 Peter 1:6, Psalms 102:4,11, Isaiah  
40:6-7,

## **OPENING SCRIPTURE:**

**[James 1:1-11]**

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

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

<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

<sup>9</sup> Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, <sup>10</sup> and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. <sup>11</sup> 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.

*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jas 1:1–11.*

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“Every situation is an opportunity for Spiritual Growth...”

–Christiane Northrup, M.D.

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## **TERMS & BACKGROUND:**

**[AUTHOR]** Most likely the author is none other than Jesus’ half-brother James. Matthew 13:55 lists off the 4 half-brothers of Jesus and James was the

**[WRITTEN FROM]** James wrote the book from Jerusalem. In Acts 15 James speaks with authority in the church of Jerusalem. In Galatians 2:1-9 Paul refers to James as a leader, a pillar in the Jerusalem church. James spent his life in Jerusalem therefore we can easily access that the book was written from Jerusalem most likely 40-62 AD.

**[THEMES]** Faith that produces works or the fruit of repentance. There is no contrast to Paul’s reminder that it’s “by grace through faith” that we are saved.

**[AUDIENCE]** James is speaking to the Jewish people who are scattered due to persecution as well as the growing Christian Jews who were all over the nations sharing the good news of Jesus. The term brothers or brethren is a term used to signify those who have faith in Jesus as Lord. The people scattered abroad are a testament to God’s sovereign hand in which he allows persecution for the sake of the Gospel. These are the people James is addressing, however, the practical outworking of faith is relevant to all believers and therefore this book is a powerful read for all professing Christians.

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## OUTLINE

### I. (v1) “**James**, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings”

- A. “James”- Within this first verse, we see the author James
  - 1. *Half brother of Jesus is the most likely and agreed upon the author*
    - a) **Galatians 1:18-19** “<sup>18</sup> Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. <sup>19</sup> But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord’s brother.”
      - (1) James was the pastor at the church in Jerusalem
      - (2) James was not a believer before the crucifixion
- B. “To the twelve tribes in the **Dispersion**”-
  - 1. *Common terminology for the Jews*
  - 2. *Dispersion (Greek- *dispora*) would point to those scattered beyond Jerusalem*
    - a) The entire ethnic group of Jews
    - b) Further The entire ethnic group of believing Jews
    - c) (1 Peter 1:1-2) would add the entire ethnic group of Believing Jew living as foreigners living in other countries (Scattered)
      - (1) Scattered by Persecution
      - (2) Scattered sovereignly by God for the purpose of spreading the Gospel

### II. (v2-3) “<sup>2</sup> **Count it all joy**, my brothers, when you meet **trials of various kinds**, <sup>3</sup> for you know that **the testing of your faith produces steadfastness**.”

- A. “Count it all Joy”-
  - 1. *“Count”- Consider/evaluate*
  - 2. *“It all”- the trials referred to next in the sentence structure*
  - 3. *“Joy”- delight, gladness*
- B. “Meet trials of various kinds”-
  - 1. *“Trials”- are pressure-filled circumstances*
  - 2. *“Various kinds”- any kind of pressure-filled circumstance*
    - a) *1 Peter 1:6- “...if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials...”*
- C. “For you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness”

1. The reason why we can come through trials with gladness and delight is that we can understand that
  - a) God is sovereign in His permissive will (allowing it to be there for your good/and for His glory)
    - (1) Romans 8:28 “all things” work together for Good” to those that love God and are called according to His purpose...
  
2. *The reason we can come through trials with gladness and delight is that the process (of sanctification) is*
  - a) God’s means of producing **more mature faith (v4)**
  
3. *The reason we can come through trials with gladness is that we understand that part of maturing faith is Steadfastness or patience or/and **abiding under***
  - a) Abiding=
    - (1) Remain under the stress and strain without hitting the panic button or pulling the evacuation hatch
      - (a) Due to faith in God and the process
  
    - (2) Remaining under the strength of God alone

**D. (v4) “And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”**

1. *“Let” endurance/patience”- represents the act of submission to the process in (allowing) God to teach us something in every pressure-filled circumstance*
  - a) (Question)= Ok God, what are you teaching me through this?
  
2. *“Have its full effect”- let the trial runs its course for the benefit of seeing the end product of my faith and endurance God desires to give*
  - a) How many times do we under sell God’s teaching for me in the trial before me?
  - b) God is the only teacher that will give you the same test/trial over and over again until I have passed the test and faith in its appropriate amount is gained
  
3. *“That YOU may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing”-*
  - a) The man or woman of God is the target God is aiming

- b) The man or woman of God is to mature through the pressure-filled circumstance and come out better **prepared** for the next test/trial
  - c) Conveys the idea of wholeness or soundness in the character of the believer
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**Application:** *We are encouraged to embrace trials for the promised spiritual potential they bring. Christian character is built through adversity.*

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## E. (v5-8) Wisdom is given when we ask

1. (v5) “If any of you lacks **wisdom**, let him ask God, **who gives generously** to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”
  - a) “Wisdom”- If we lack wisdom we lack understanding of
    - (1) What God commands
    - (2) What God has promised to us
    - (3) What God desires for us in the trial
      - (a) **Proverbs 2:6** *“For the Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” (NLT)*
      - (b) **2 Peter 1:3** *“By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.” (ESV)*
  - b) “Let him ask”- Prayer is the appropriate response in trials, but we must use it
    - (1) Asking aligns with God promise when we ASK, SEEK, and KNOCK= its more than just words in prayer it is words plus study and meditation upon scripture
  - c) God gives “generously to all”-
    - (1) All believers who ask will receive wisdom
    - (2) **Matthew 7:7-11** *“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much***

***more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! "***

- (a) He will give us all the wisdom we need to glorify His name in the mission He has placed before us as His children

2. (v6-7) **"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. <sup>7</sup> For **that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord.**"**

- a) "Ask in faith, with no doubting"- The attitude we Approach God in our prayers is vital

- (1) Ask with single intent (Douglas Moo)

- (2) Our attitude is that God is a promise keeper and always good

- (a) **Romans 4:20** *"Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God."*

- (3) Our attitude towards God is one of integrity and desire for God to teach us and ultimately for His will to be done

- (a) This is not saying we will never have doubt but that our faith in God himself (His character) is consistent

- b) If we doubt the character of God then we can expect to get nothing from Him at all

- c) The one who doubts God is not consistently in prayer for God's wisdom but rather trust in the wisdom of the world and only goes to God in times of crisis

3. (v8) **"<sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."**

- a) The one who doubts God's character and mixes his approach to problems is "double-minded" meaning he does not fully trust in Jesus/God as Lord

- b) "Double-minded"- refers to a divided heart and a lack of fear of the Lord or reverence for the Lord

- (1) Divided in their loyalty to God and the world

- (2) Double-minded literally means "Double-souled"

- (a) Word is used again in James 4:8

(3) Deuteronomy 6:5 commands for us to Love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our strength

(a) The double-minded man is not wholeheartedly sold out to God

(b) Could be termed as "Spiritual Schizophrenia" (Douglas Moo)

(i) Actions do not match one's claim to be a believer

c) This person will not receive anything from God because his intentions are not good and He needs to be taught who Jesus first and a lifestyle of repentance

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**Application:** *We need to learn who God is so that we may trust Him in the times of trials and never doubt His character and goodness...*

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***"Talk is cheap... Seeing is believing... If it looks like a duck and quakes like a duck... it's a duck!"***

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