

Women's Bible Study

October 11, 2017

James 1: 1-12 Trials and Temptations

It is believed that the Epistle of James was authored by Christ's brother James. This letter was written to the twelve tribes of Christian Jews scattered after a great persecution broke out against the church of Jerusalem and Saul began destroying the church and imprisoning men and women. During this time James was a leader of the Jerusalem church and was writing, as a pastor, to instruct and encourage the dispersed people in the face of their difficulties.

Trials and Temptations

James 1:1-4 "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:

Greetings."

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Matthew 5:11-12 Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Romans: 5: 3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings because we know that suffering produces perseverance.

1Peter 1: 6-7 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

James 1:12-15 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.

Webster Dictionary defines perseverance as: steadfastness

The King James Dictionary defines perseverance as: continuance in a state of grace to a state of glory; sometimes called final *perseverance*.

James 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.

1Kings 3: 9-10 So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours? The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this.

Proverbs 2:3-6 and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Daniel 2:21 He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.

Matthew 7: 7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

James 1:6- 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.

Mark 11: 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Matthew 21: 21-22 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, Go, throw yourself into the sea, and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

Ephesians 4:14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.

What does it mean "Then we will no longer be infants?" We must attain the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. The maturity of the perfectly balanced character of Christ.

James 1:7-8 – That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

James 4:8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Psalm 119: 113-115 I hate double-minded men, but I love your law. You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word. Away from me, you evil doers, that I may keep the commands of God!
2Peter 3:16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

What is a double-minded man? A man who is indecisive. He is uncertain about what he believes and unstable in all he does.

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

James 2:5 Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

Matthew 23:12 For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Job 14:2 He springs up like a flower and withers away; like a fleeting shadow, he does not endure.

Psalm 103: 15,16 As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

1Corinthians 7: 31 those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away. 1Peter 1:24

James 1:12 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.

Isaiah 40:6-8 A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.

1Corinthians 9:25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

1Corinthians 8:3 But the man who loves God is known by God.

What sustains us in the midst of our trials? Our trust in God, our faith that God is working all things out for his own holy purpose.

Job was tested. As a result of his testing Job repented of his sins. Job 42:1-6 Then Job replied to the Lord: I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. You asked, "Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge? Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. You said, Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me. My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.

Abraham was tested. Hebrews 11:17- By faith, Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice.

What can we do when we find ourselves in a difficult trial? Pray and examine our spiritual inventory.

Trials can humble us. They come to remind us not to think more confidently of our spiritual strength than we should. Trials come to test the strength of our faith. God tests us so that we can find out what is in our hearts. God assists us in doing a spiritual inventory. Are we focusing on Christ?

How can our trial help others? You can share your own experience and how your faith gave you peace. Tell others to ask God for what you need and ask in faith. You have to have a believing heart to believe that God has a purpose and that he will supply everything that you will need for that trial.