

## The Trials of the Your Faith...

### James 1: 1-8

#### Testing Your Faith

<sup>1</sup>James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

<sup>2</sup>Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, <sup>3</sup>knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. <sup>4</sup>And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

<sup>5</sup>But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup>But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, <sup>8</sup>*being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

There are many times that we encounter trials and pressure from the word we live in. How we deal with these issues is what grows us in so many ways. The very thing that seems to be our failing point will become our strength if we apply the scripture, the power of the Holy Spirit to empower us to overcome.

The James who wrote this is the half brother of Jesus.

This letter was probably written to the Jewish Christians abroad to encourage them to continue to press on in the circumstances they were in.

The word "trial" is not limited to a court situation but includes the daily issues we encounter.

In a book by Kay Arthur "The Refiner's Fire" the reference of the silversmith getting the fire hot so the silver can be heated till the dross starts to come to the top and is skimmed off. As we all know the silversmith is waiting for that magical moment when the image shown in the silver is as clear as a picture. Then the silver is ready to be poured and formed into the coin or whatever the silversmith wishes.

In Acts 5:41

. <sup>41</sup>So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for *His* name. <sup>42</sup>And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

The Apostles were beaten and endured the shunning of the priests and religious leaders of the Jewish faith. Note Peter wrote these words concerning suffering in the life of a Christian.

### 1 Peter 4: 12-19

#### Share the Sufferings of Christ

<sup>12</sup>Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; <sup>13</sup>but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. <sup>14</sup>If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup>Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; <sup>16</sup>but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. <sup>17</sup>For *it is* time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup>AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL

BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER? <sup>19</sup>Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

There are many times when I personally just sit and cry out to the Lord why me... Then I remember that the reality of the situation is that I am a Christian and I am going to be molded into the Image of Christ. There are no substitutions for the life that I am to live for the world to see Jesus in me.

## **Romans 5: 1-5**

### **Results of Justification**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; <sup>4</sup>and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

I know that the fullness of the Christ is being brought out in me.  
What is the image that people see in you?

## **1Kings 3: 6-9**

### **Solomon's Prayer**

<sup>6</sup>Then Solomon said, "You have shown great lovingkindness to Your servant David my father, according as he walked before You in <sup>o</sup>truth and righteousness and uprightness of heart toward You; and You have reserved for him this great lovingkindness, that You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day. <sup>7</sup>"Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king in place of my father David, yet I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>"Your servant is in the midst of Your people which You have chosen, a great people who are too many to be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>"So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

When we are in the trials we need to get the strength of Solomon and instead of the way out we need to ask the gift of GOD to be given "Wisdom" to know how to deal with the situations as we should. The strength of Love is so powerful.

## **Mathew 7: 7 -12**

### **Prayer and the Golden Rule**

<sup>7</sup>"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup>"For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. <sup>9</sup>"Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup>"Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? <sup>11</sup>"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!

<sup>12</sup>"In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

## **Joy in Times of Trial**

James in his customary forthright way tells us to "Count it all joy, my brethren, when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness" ([James 1:2, 3](#)). In case we are inclined to modify these words as the utopian command of one who had not really experienced sorrow, let us remember that James was one of the principal leaders of the Christians in Jerusalem who continually faced persecution from those outside the Church

(culminating in his own martyrdom in his sixties), as well as internal dissension associated with a Judaizing element. James surely knew what it meant to “meet various trials!”

But James had also learned that difficulties can produce steadfastness or patience, though the natural reaction is annoyance or bitterness. He never tells us to pretend that a trial is nonexistent. Instead he wants us to recognize and rejoice that any problem can be the occasion for God to work in and through us in a way that He otherwise would not.

This is indeed a “testing of our faith”; it calls upon us to believe in the goodness of God, and to trust that He is not only willing but able to accomplish His purposes, no matter what befalls us. Any difficulty, whether great or small, is an occasion for joy, but only when we remind ourselves of the nature of the God who loves us and wills only the best for us.

The reality of the Lord we serve is that we must endure. Now the fact is that without Jesus you are dealing with the situations in yourself. There will be an emptiness that can only be filled with the Spirit of the Son of God.

Now you can have the Son of the Living God living in you. The Spirit of Jesus can fill you with Hope mentioned in the Word.

What is your choice?