

James 1:1-13

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I. Introduction.

- A. James was written to the twelve tribes in the dispersion.
- B. Since it is not written to a particular audience or place it is considered a general epistle.
- C. It is very applicable to the day in which we live.
- D. The theme is pure religion. We all deep down desire the real thing.
- E. The author.
 - 1. James was not a believer until after the resurrection of Jesus.
 - 2. He was the brother of Jesus.
 - 3. He was the chairman of the important Acts 15 Council.
 - 4. He was martyred in the early church.
- F. The book is an exposition on how all things work together for good for those who love God. (Romans 8:28)

II. Trials. (James 1:2-12)

- A. This means pressures, not necessarily temptations to sin.
 - 1. These are critical people.
 - 2. These are disappointing circumstances.
 - 3. These are the moments where God is seemingly silent.
 - 4. Never doubt in the light what God showed you in the dark. Often in the deepest darkest experiences, God is the most real.
 - 5. It is important to have reservoirs of emotional and spiritual strength because the burdens will come.
 - 6. We are to count it joy in the face of trials because the testing of our faith produces steadfastness. Joy is deeper than happiness or hilarity.
- B. The testing of faith.
 - 1. Faith is an inner assurance that counts on the promises of God and seeks to obey His commands. It is an inner assurance. (Hebrews 11:1)

- a. Faith is not believing a certain set of things simply.
- b. That will not get us through the difficulties of life.
- c. Job and Paul knew more Who they believed than what. (Acts 27:25)
- d. Trials often test what one believes, and this wrongly becomes the center.

2. God wants to produce something through the testing of faith - stable consistent character like Christ. (Romans 8:29)

- a. Christ learned obedience by what He suffered.
- b. Pain gives an added dimension to the person.

3. Many times God gives trials to teach others around the person suffering.

C. Wisdom.

1. If one does not know how to respond, he should ask God and He will give wisdom.

- a. However, one must ask in faith.
- b. The contrast to this is to be double-minded and fickle.
- c. One gets over being fickle by making a choice. He has to be willing to be obedient from the outset.

2. Wisdom will clarify your perspective.

D. When the test comes, do not buckle. Tests make us the right kind of people.

Application questions

1. How should a person respond in the midst of trials?

2. Why is it important to ask for guidance from God in faith?

3. What trials are you facing now? How will you respond to these differently in light of the message?
