

“James #1”

James 1:1- 8 (Greeting and The Joy of Trials)

Introduction: (V1) Read – *“James a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ”*

James was the brother of Jesus, not just spiritually but Jesus’ actual half-brother. Mary was his and Jesus’ mother, Joseph was not Jesus’ father, we know Jesus was born of the Holy Ghost. **Grew up together...** but James didn’t always believe in Jesus as Messiah.

- There is some indication in scripture that there was some resentment.
- History tells us James didn’t always believe...

Mark 3: 31 – 35 Read...

1st Corinthians 15: 3 – 8 Read... (V7) *The point is, James is emphasized* - [Acts 12: 16 - 17]

- **Text:** James 1: 1 - 4 (NKJV) Read

Lets look at Joy and trials... V’s 2 - 4...

- #1 James does not tell us to feel joy in the midst of our trials, **but rather to count it or consider our trials pure Joy...** [V2]
- In other words, see your trials from a different perspective.
- Our suffering now can be endured with perseverance because we know that our trials are leading to maturity... [V3] *“Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.” (Endurance or Perseverance)*
- God is going to take our trials and perfect us through it... [V4] *“Let patience have its perfect work, **that you may be Perfect.**” (Mature)*

1st Peter 1: 6 – 7 *“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been **grieved (Distressed)** by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested with fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”*

2nd Timothy 1: 8 *“Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God.”*

- Though the trials of life test us, God uses them to strengthen our faith!!

Text James 1: 5 -8 (NKJV) Read

- Wisdom... what kind of wisdom are we to ask for?
- When we are suffering and struggling, we find ourselves questioning God and doubting His love for us.
- We wonder where He is and if He really is working through our trials.

WE NEED HIS WISDOM IN THE MIDST OF THE TRIAL!!

Robert Heller: *“During our trials, the danger is not so much the trial itself but where we fix our eyes. We are either listening to the wind and the waves or listening to the words of Jesus.”*

- And I would add: We should be listening to the promises of Jesus...
- And looking to eternity in Glory with Jesus. *(Our eyes fixed on Him)*

John 17: 24 *“Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they behold My glory which you have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”*