

Trusting Faith **J**ames 1:5-12

Book Of James

**Identifying Authentic
Faith**

**Trials Mature Our
Relationship With
God**

I. Find Joy

James 1:2

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

A. Joy in the times of difficulty is evidence of genuine faith (Philippians 4:4)

B. A command that is not easy

Do we value comfort more than character?

C. Fall - To be surrounded by

To have no help in yourself

D. Temptations – To prove authenticity

You cannot fake truth

II. Gain Endurance

James 1:3

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

A. Through experience

You know what you know

B. An active, continuing test

C. By patiently abiding and be brought under the influence of God

Ex: David

III. Become Mature

James 1:4

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

A. Fully developed (time)

No short cuts to maximum potential

B. Fully equipped (parts)

**Trials provide
believers with
spiritual fortitude
and staying power.**

**Trials are given to
perfect us so that we
will be effective and
productive in knowing
Christ and serving
His kingdom.**

James 1:5-12

5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

James 1:5-12 – continued

9 Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:

10 But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away.

11 For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Engage Trials

I. Seek Wisdom (1:5)

James 1:5

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

A. What is wisdom?

Moral and spiritual understanding based upon the fear of the Lord

Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Proverbs 2:1-15

- 1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;**
- 2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;**
- 3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;**
- 4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;**
- 5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.**

Proverbs 2:1-15 - continued

6 For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

8 He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

9 Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.

Proverbs 2:1-15 - continued

- 10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;**
- 11 Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:**
- 12 To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh foward things;**
- 13 Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;**
- 14 Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the fowardness of the wicked;**
- 15 Whose ways are crooked, and they foward in their paths:**

I. Seek Wisdom (1:5)

James 1:5

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

B. A command to ask

1. You will fail if you do this on your own
2. It is impossible to live the Christian life without absolute trust in God

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

I. Seek Wisdom (1:5)

James 1:5

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

B. A command to ask - continued

1. You will fail if you do this on your own
2. It is impossible to live the Christian life without absolute trust in God
3. God gives us trials to force us to depend on Him alone
4. We must have His wisdom to guide us

Deuteronomy 8:1-5

1 All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers.

2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

Deuteronomy 8:1-5 - continued

- 3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.**
- 4 Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.**
- 5 Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee.**

I. Seek Wisdom (1:5)

**If we ask in faith
believing, ready to
apply His wisdom, God
will generously give
His wisdom to realize
the situation without
reproach.**

II. Trust God (1:6-8)

James 1:6-8

6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

II. Trust God (1:6-8)

A. A condition - we must ask in faith, nothing wavering.

“I believe in the sun even when it does not shine. I believe in love even when it is not expressed. And I believe in God even when He is silent.”

II. Trust God (1:6-8)

- B. Trusting God when you're accustomed to trusting yourself or others is brutally difficult.**
- 1. When we trust in ourselves we are living as if God...**
 - a. Doesn't exist**
 - b. Doesn't care**
 - c. Is incapable of handling the situation.**

Psalm 14:1

The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

II. Trust God (1:6-8)

C. Don't be double-minded

Remember Matthew 6:24

**God gives us trials to give us an undivided soul that is
whole**

Matthew 6:22

**The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be
single, thy whole body shall be full of light**

**To doubt or being double-minded testifies that you are
not exercising authentic faith**

III. Submit Self (1:9-11)

James 1:9-11

9 Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:

10 But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away.

11 For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

III. Submit Self (1:9-11)

- A. Regardless of status, you must live in submission to God and under His authority and influence**
- B. Trials level the playing field for everyone making all believers equally dependent on God**

III. Submit Self (1:9-11)

**To live completely
abandoned and under
the God's influence
and authority,
absolutely dependent
on Him despite your
worldly fortune**

IV. Enjoy Blessings (1:12)

James 1:12

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

- A. Blessed = Inner joy and satisfaction**
- B. Tried = To be approved because...**
 - a. You have passed the test**
 - b. Your faith is affirmed**
- C. Crown of life = Crown which is life**

IV. Enjoy Blessings (1:12)

**When we successfully
respond to God in the
midst of trials, He
adorns His people with
life and salvation
bringing joy.**

“A genuine believer is not someone who at some point in time made a profession of faith in Christ, but he is a person who actively demonstrates authentic faith by possessing an on-going love for God that cannot be damaged, much less destroyed, by troubles and afflictions, no matter how severe or long-lasting.” Source - Unknown

Trials are gifts from God, with His purposes in mind

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

**Do not avoid or ignore
trials, embrace them**

