

JAMES



Joy in Trials

1:1-4

Where FAITH becomes ACTION

JAMES 1:1 - 4

Big Themes – For Today

- Joy in Trials
- Wisdom and Humility
- Rewards, Blessings, Temptation
- Faith, Actions, Difficult Relationships
- Our Words, Sickness, Prayer.....

Two Helps to the Series

- Know the Author, Setting, Audience
- Ask the Holy Spirit to illumine truth



JAMES 1:1-4

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:

²Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.



JAMES 1:1 - 4

1. Meet James 1:1

- Jesus 1/2 brother
- timeline of the book
- James in Gospel accounts
 - Matt. 13:55, Mark 3, 6

a) Witness to Resurrected Jesus

- 1 Cor. 15:3-8 " For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures



JAMES 1:1-4

⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.



JAMES 1:1-4

b) Established Leader of Early Church

- Gal 1:18-24 "Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother. ²⁰ (In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie!) ²¹ Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²² And I was still unknown in person to the churches of Judea that are in Christ. ²³ They only were hearing it said, "He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy." ²⁴ And they glorified God because of me.



JAMES 1:1-4

- Galatians 2:9-10 ⁹ and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

¹⁰ Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.

- Acts 15:13ff – gives verdict to an issue

- Acts 21:17-19 – Paul gives report to James and elders of the growth of church



JAMES 1:1-4


- c) Writing to the 12 Tribes Scattered
 - originally – by Assyrians and Babylonians
 - recently – by Romans and Persecution
 - believers in Christ, witnesses to his miracles and to the resurrection

3. Perspective vs. 2-3

- a) trials of various kinds
 - greek. – within and without
 - audience facing Roman Persecution
 - audience facing Religious Persecution



JAMES 1:1-4

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- we face the same kinds of pressures
 - from a world increasingly anti faith
 - from relationships within faith
 - from disappointment with others
 - from internal thoughts & convictions
 - * early acknowledgment – this won't be easy
 - b) Count it all Joy (consider pure joy)
 - indicates a choice
 - a call to consider circumstances or God

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- 2 Cor. 1:3-5 " Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too."



JAMES 1:1-4

- not a false happiness in with circumstances, but a perspective and trust in God being able and at work in all things!

c) For You Know...

- James takes them back to truth

- perspective is everything, and knowing that God is able, already knew, provides, and this trial can produce something brings new perspective!

- other passages on trials and maturity, Romans 5:1-5, 1 Peter 4:12



JAMES 1:1-4

3. Produces

- the chance to exercise your faith brings...

a) steadfastness (perseverance)

- greek. Ability to bear up under burden

- strengthen, ability for endurance

- practice allows execution of action

b) complete (mature), not lacking

- able to withstand, having what you need

- maturity to see things in perspective

- trust God to deliver in His time and way



JAMES 1:1-4


So What?

Charles Spurgeon “They who dive in the sea of affliction bring up rare pearls”

1. Is the Soil of Our Hearts Ready?
 - difficult themes, real wisdom, challenging truths – are we open to God’s work?
2. Gaining Perspective
 - What trials of various kinds are in your life?
 - Is God able to use them to produce something?



JAMES 1:1-4

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3. What Needs to Change for My heart to Count it all Joy?
 - perspective
 - renewal of the truth about trial
 4. Identify Where trial has...
 - produced perseverance
 - produced maturity
 5. Ask God to Enable you to Trust Truth with your circumstances