

Marks to Measure From

Book of James

Who – ‘Servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ’

Written For – ‘twelve tribes scattered’

- already followers of Jesus – Believers
- addressed as Brothers – 19 times

Why Written – experiencing difficulty

- testing, temptation, gossip, competition for offices in church, struggles with money, patience etc.
- major issue – what I believe and how I live

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Problems related to Maturity

- needed to know what it looked like
- needed to understand importance of growth
- needed to be pushed to mature
- 54 commands or exhortations in book
- Maturity is needed to see participate fully

From a Heart of Love – grow up

A decorative graphic consisting of three curved lines that start from the left edge and curve downwards towards the bottom right. Each line has a small grey circular dot placed on it. The lines are thin and grey, and the dots are slightly larger than the lines themselves.

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“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations. Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not believe he will receive anything from the Lord; he is double minded, unstable in all he does.” James 1:1-8

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Measuring our Circumstances

- our view of life challenges makes all the difference

a) Consider (Count)

- financial term for evaluate
- take into consideration the trial you face

● Note – whenever – learn to expect problems

“I have told you these things so you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble, But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

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- “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Heb 12:2

- what we value establishes priorities – sets value

- what it costs relational to its value to us

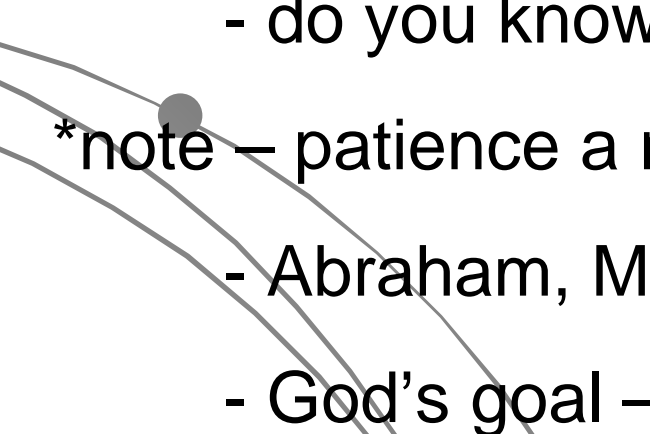
- do we value comfort or character

- do we live for this world or for eternity

- how we view trouble and our response reflects maturity

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b) know vs.3

- tested and approved a good thing for us
 - when you understand the outcome – enduring easier
 - do you know – testing develops perseverance
 - *note – patience a real issue to maturity*
 - Abraham, Moses, Saul, etc
 - God's goal – develop you to maturity – teach you
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- c) Must finish it's work – allow it to be completed
- God's work in us requires our participation
 - will we submit to his process – we don't get to decide

*note – God has a process for our growth

1. God Does For Us – salvation
2. God Does In Us – sanctification
3. God Does Through Us – service

- character building and preparing is key – will you let him



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d) Asking – taking your real need to God

- when we face God ordained struggles – pray
- not for, deliverance, grace, strength exclusively
- ask for wisdom!

wisdom - right use of knowledge

- knowledge – ability to take things apart
- wisdom – ability to put things together that work

note – careful to ask ready to accept the answer – believe and be obedient key to this working

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So What

1. You will face trials – perspective is everything. Will you see it as a growth maturity issue, or a comfort issue?
 2. If your perspective is right – perseverance and patience are the issues to develop
 3. Without a surrendered will to God's work and God's way – impossible to mature to usability
 4. Ask for the real need – wisdom to see what God is doing and respond His way to your circumstances
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