

James Bible Study - Week 1  
James 1:1-12

**1** This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am writing to the “twelve tribes”—Jewish believers scattered abroad.

Greetings!

### **Faith and Endurance**

**2** Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. **3** For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. **4** So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

**5** If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. **6** But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. **7** Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. **8** Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

**9** Believers who are poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them. **10** And those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them. They will fade away like a little flower in the field. **11** The hot sun rises and the grass withers; the little flower droops and falls, and its beauty fades away. In the same way, the rich will fade away with all of their achievements.

**12** God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

- Who wrote the book of James under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit?
- How would it have been growing up in a house with Jesus? From the perspective of an imperfect sibling.
- The purpose of James is to teach, encourage and challenge.
- James blessed us with a new perspective on trials. Trials are tests that challenge and reveal the genuineness of one's faith.

- There are two directions our trials can take us:
  - Temptation, Sin & Death
  - Faith, Endurance & Maturity
- In our trials we are to find: God over them, Joy in them and wisdom through them.
- With trials it is when not if. These trials will be various... often, unpredictable and all shapes & sizes.
- We must understand that all trials have a purpose.
- Our trials produce... endurance, stronger faith, testimonies and ultimately maturity.
- James 1:5-8 The reason trials often overwhelm is due to a lack of wisdom.
- A divided follower of Jesus is unstable at best.
- There is saving faith and Sustaining faith! Sustaining faith helps us to overcome doubt.
- James 1:9-10. We look for Joy in our stuff and seldom in our trials.
- Your net worth is not your self-worth. We count the outside, God counts the inside.
- Wealth and beauty pass and get buried with you.
- There are Godly Poor and Godly Rich, UnGodly Rich and Godly Rich.
- The world tries to divide and cause a class war saying all rich are oppressors and all the poor are oppressed. 2 Corinthians 2:8
- Joy is not found in your sin. James 1:12

