


James Series 1

- James says he is a slave to Jesus
- James is Jesus' 1/2 brother
- James is writing to Scattered Jewish Christians who are in the midst of struggle

 "I'm afraid that far too often the church walks in with their fuzzy blankets, attempting to create a distorted form of religion, asking & expecting God to swaddle us."


We need to trust God when he scatters us.

God is good in trial abs God is victorious in temptation.

Troubles of various kinds: no varsity or JV levels of trouble but troubles of ANY KIND.

It's not about the troubles or trials but it's about maturing as a believer.


 you are going to cross paths with sinners and it will be painful & you will face various trials as a result.

 you are going to cross paths with other believers, who are imperfect & in process. That is going to result in some painful troubles as well.

VS 4  

God's goal for your life is not comfort but maturity.

James isn't writing to a swaddled people but a scattered people. He isn't showing them how to be comfortable but how to grow.

 It isn't the trial alone that matures our faith, it is how we trust, how we endure, how we pray, you have to trust God through it.

Temptation comes from our own desires - our own eyes, mind, mouth & heart. The enemy will initiate the temptation in order to destroy. It is designed to bring out the worst. You were not called to a swaddled faith. To grow in faith, spiritual strength, holy maturity is to learn how to patiently endure in testing and temptations.

You are special but you are not fragile.

You are special but you are not soft.

You are His prized possession but that doesn't mean he wants to wrap you up in a blanket and make sure that you never feel any measure of discomfort.