

INTRO

1. The genuineness of something valuable is affirmed through the process of Examination and testing. Whether it be gold, silver, stones, money, anything that is of value is subjected to testing to affirm its true worth.

Word Picture -- Is it a Fugazi ?

2. Hopefully each one of us knows the most valuable thing in all the world is eternal salvation. It is priceless. It's of the highest value.
3. **To have a right relationship with the Living God is to possess the most valuable thing in existence. And everyone who believes they have that possession should be subjected to a process of testing to determine its VALIDITY!**
4. **There are more than 2.5 billion people all around the world who if asked, "if they are saved" would reply "Yes", But how many are wrong? True Salvation needs to be subjected to examination and to testing.**
5. **Adrian Rogers said " A faith that hasn't been tested can't be trusted"**

This is a biblical concept found throughout Scripture.

1. Is Genuine Salvation Tested?

Let's look at the book of Psalms 17:3, Psalms 26:2 , Psalms 139:23-24
The Psalmist declares this truth, Our Salvation, our Relationship to the Lord is Subject to testing. He actually cries out, God put my life to the Test.

- A. **Old Testament - Lamentation 3:40 Search & Try / Examine our ways**
- B. **Haggai 1:5-7 Consider your ways = Think on your life, Examine yourself**
- C. **New Testament - Hebrews 11, thru the testing of their Faith.**
- D. **Galatian 6:4 Not talking about Examining others! These verses aren't meant for someone else; they are meant for our use.**
- E. **1 Cor 11:28 says let a man examine himself**
- F. **2 Cor 13:5 - Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith.**

So, Answering the question Is Genuine Salvation Tested? James is going to also answer YES! Let's Open to James Chapter 1.

Author & Dates

1. As we search the scriptures, only two are considered as possible authors, James the Son of Zebedee ,brother of John the "Sons of Thunder" who was the first of the twelve apostles to be martyred, killed by king Herod several years before this Letter was written.
 2. Not to get ahead of myself but in Verse 1 James uses the word Greetings only used 3x in the New Testament "James the Just" the half-brother of Jesus used this Greetings in his letter to the gentiles in **Acts 15:23** ,a parallel that also tends to confirm his authorship.
 3. Apparently, James the half-brother of Jesus was an unbeliever at first according to **John 7:5**. However, James is mentioned in **Acts 1:13** as being in the upper room praying with his mother and the Disciples. Sounds like he was present the day of Pentecost when the Bible says : "They were all filled with the Holy Ghost".
 4. This letter was likely penned around 49AD about 15yrs after Jesus Crucifixion and that would make this the first book of the New Testament.
 5. Historians recorded testimonies about James saying "He used to enter alone into the Temple and be found Kneeling and praying for forgiveness for the people **so that his knee's grew hard like a camel because of his constant worship**. Kneeling asking forgiveness for the people. James was the leader of the Jerusalem church, chaired the council of Jerusalem and despite being a late bloomer became known as "**James the Just**."
1. **E.J. Goodspeed has called James " A handful of Pearls dropped one by one into the hearer's mind. Showing us how to have a Living, visible, productive faith in a fallen world"**.
 2. **Martin Luther who had some doubts about James said "There are otherwise many good sayings in him"**
 3. **John MacArthur - James is "The Proverbs of the New Testament"**

Let's look at the first 4 verses this morning. James 1:1-4

VS 1 The Man James and his Message

James doesn't waste any time explaining what has happened in his life. Think of the way James could have started this letter. James the Just, from the womb of Mary, brother of the Messiah, Pillar of the Church, leader of the Jerusalem church & Council. Instead, he calls himself a

1. **Servant=Doulos** Which comes from the word Slave. It means a Bondman purchased for a price, subject to the King. Notice who he is
2. **A Slave to = of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.** He says Lord Signifying Jesus having the power, having the Authority, Master, owner. He wanted to confirm a truth right away. "I'm not a skeptic anymore" I know now my half-brother was God in the Flesh.
3. **Jesus - Meaning Savior.**
4. It sounds like a humble address but to be a "**Servant of the Lord**" was considered a great honor in Jewish culture. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, David, Isaiah, and Daniel are all described as God's servants.
5. James is writing **to the twelve tribes.** At this time majority of Believers were Jewish. Paul's Missionary trips hadn't started yet and his primary focus was to Jewish Believers. James Says "**Which are scattered abroad.**
6. This word **Scattered**- defined in the Greek could be translated "Through a Sowing". Think about this, what seem like a trial to them **Outlawed criminals, ripped from their homes and incomes, facing violence, and death.** Was being used to Sow the seed of faith in Jesus Abroad.
7. James concluded vs 1 with **Greetings -Be Cheerful, Joy**

The Truth that is revealed by James is A Slave of my God, my Master, My Savior, the Lord JESUS to believers scattered abroad sow the seeds of faith cheerfully with Joy!

He goes on to waste no time with his urgent message. But has James lost his mind, writing to the beat-up brothers and sisters he says don't worry...Be Happy! What may seem to be an Irrational Call. I'm sure if we faced a similar situation as they did, we would think he was crazy! We don't want trials or even discomforts and James is getting ready to challenge us to be committed to face trials with Joy!

Vs 2 Be Committed to face trials with Joy

- 1. Brethren-** James is including all of his Siblings. Brother and Sisters in Christ, family of God, including all believers in his command.
- 2. Count it all Joy=** Consider it
- 3. All = Renders a Greek word Pure Joy=Delight.**

CONSIDER IT PURE DELIGHT WHEN YOU FACE VARIOUS TRIALS

- 4.** This is the most unnatural response anyone would have to enjoy your life being turned upside down. James wants what has happened to lead us to what? Is this Even Possible?
- 5.** Turn to **Acts 5:40-42** Luke tells us when the Sanhedrin Called in the Apostles
- 6.** Paul, **2 Corinthians 7:4** "I am Exceedingly joyful in all tribulation"
- 7.** James didn't say count it all joy **IF** you fall into divers' temptation. He said "When" you **Fall**.
- 8.** **The word fall can be translated FACE. When you face or come across, challenges ,trials and Temptations, we need to be committed to face them with joy.**

The truth we face from James this morning is ,we have a choice=

We can be committed to face trials with joy or do the opposite = Complain, blame others & fail to prove that are faith can be tested.

Remember Adrian said "A faith that can't be tested can't be trusted.

- 9.** **Jesus Said in Luke 18:27 "The things which are impossible with man are possible with God".**

Vs 3&4 Finally an Explanation that makes Sense

- 1. Knowing-**The Greek word **Ginosko** = its not to know about something but to have a Full understanding often with a personal experience.
- 2. That the trying or Testing=** This word trying is only found in **1 Peter 1:7** and in the Septuagint in **Psalms 12:6** and **Proverbs 27:21**

It explained in these verse as the process which Silver or Gold is refined by Fire. "The proven genuineness of your faith".

Praise the Lord, the trying of your faith ,means you have faith already present.

Trying can also be translated Trustworthiness.'

- 3. Worketh is the same word found in Phil 2:12- Work out your own Salvation with fear and trembling**
- 4. All of this produces Patience = which means to Abide under/Endurance**

The truth we see here is we must know that the trustworthiness of your faith produces Endurance to Abide Under.

WHY? GLAD YOU ASKED

VS 4

5. But let Patience or Endurance = Genuineness of your faith James says Have her perfect work. This is a gift that gives freedom. The Lords wants us Perfect, lacking nothing, entire, being complete in every part.

Conclusion

- 1. What we Learn here from James is we are going to look back at these temptations/Trials/Testing and if we endure, we will be left complete, lacking nothing.**
- 2. We become wiser, tougher and confident in our relationship with the Lord.**
- 3. We learned today = A faith that hasn't been tested can't be trusted"**
- 4. James and his Message to the early church doesn't make sense. But if we are committed to Joy in Trials, the fruit that it will produce, if we endure will leave us complete in every part.**
- 5. Most of us rebel against things that irritate us, and count heavy loss what ought to be gain. A bit of sand irritating an oyster produces a beautiful pearl. A true pearl is simply a victory over irritation. Every irritation the devil flings at us, the more pearls we will produce.**