

## **Trials To Triumph**

General Motors will put two dummies in a car and ram it into a wall. There will be one dummy behind the driver's seat and another behind the passenger. The goal for GM is not to be mean to the vehicles, they are testing them. They want to see how much their vehicles can take. They want to find out where the flaws are, that need to be corrected. They want to see how much their cars can stand with the ultimate goal being, to make a better car.

Some of us are just dummies! We get rammed into the wall and we think God is trying to mess us up, when he is simply trying to make us better Christians. He lets us run into the wall so we can identify our flaws. He shows us things about ourselves, things we said we'd never do-Bam! Language we said we'd never use-Bam! Places we said we'd never go-Bam! He allows us to see our own imperfections so that we realize we are not like him as much as we thought we were. God allows us to have encounters that shows us our need for him.

**To get a full view of what James is trying to say  
you really need to read from vs2-vs18.**

**We broke this up into a few studies to help us get a full grasp on  
how to apply what James is saying in to our Lives.**

1. Vs 1 shouldn't be skip over we explained this was James the half-brother of Jesus who could have started this letter much different. James the Just, from the womb of Mary, brother of the Messiah, Pillar of the church, etc. Instead, he wastes no time explaining what has happened in his life.

2. Vs 1 **James A slave of my God, My Master, My Savior, the Lord Jesus to believers sowing the seed of faith cheerfully with joy!**
3. Vs 2 To the Family of God, consider it pure delight when you face various trials, and temptations.
4. Vs 3 Knowing-Ginosko Have a full understanding that the refining of your faith by fire, the trustworthiness of your faith produces Endurance.
5. Vs 4 But let the ability to abide under have her perfect work that you may be perfect and complete in every part lacking nothing.

**Besides Joy we learned Wednesday Night that there are 3 Spiritual resources needed to face trials James says 1.Wisdom 2.Prayer 3.Faith**

1. Vs 5 If you lack understanding don't just endure, pray boldly for Wisdom not doubting and We learned Wednesday that it is Gods Will for us to have Divine Wisdom in the mist of Trials
2. Vs 6 James is asking do we trust the Lord or do we doubt his ability to provide wisdom. Are we praying with confidence. **Hebrews 11:6 Without Faith this is impossible.** Are the wind and the waves of life affecting our beliefs, or the direction of our Lives? We should be anchored in the Hope of the Lord Jesus.
3. Vs 7 & Vs 8 A continual description of the wavering Man James says don't imagine you will receive anything if you are double minded= Two souled, divided heart, Mr. facing both ways. Has a sense what is right, but a love for what is wrong. Lacking confidence in God. James says Unstable="Cannot be restrained" an "Unruly Spirit" They shall receive nothing from the Lord.

**James wants our trials to turn to Triumph.**

But in order to do so we must understand temptation.

Read vs 9-18.

**The Lord has no respect of Person**

God does not show favoritism based on social status, wealth, position, & outward appearance. We shouldn't define ourselves by worldly status but by our spiritual status.

1. Vs 9 James starts with a person of “Low “earthly status. He says 'Rejoice” rise above your circumstance and depression. Because you are exalted=Lifted high as a child of God Turn to 1 Peter 1:3-7
2. Vs 10 James Transitions to the “But the Rich” should rejoice in their humility. He reminds us that when we face trials material things will not give inner and lasting help, especially spiritual help. James goes further to say that both him and his possessions “are as the flowers of the grass he shall pass away.” Peter and Isaiah both confirm this truth. 1 Peter 1:24 Isaiah 40:6-8
3. Vs 11 **Burning**- James is referring to the hot wind that comes from the east. The **Heat** – Is a reference to the scorching wind mentioned in Amos 4:9. Now James says **Grace** you have this “**goodly appearance**” but it’s going to **Fade**=Wear out. Money doesn’t buy comfort when we lose a loved one, or it can’t buy peace when we lose our health. Trials are to bring all of Gods children to dependence on him. Wealth doesn’t bring God closer nor does poverty keep him further away. We should draw near to God with Equal Confidence, that we may equally receive mercy and equally find grace in time of need.

### Reward for passing the test

1. Vs 12 **Blessed**-Means much more than happiness it’s a profound inner Joy. That’s what James say’s we will have when we learn to **Endureth** “Abide under” during Temptation.
2. They are confidently trusting the Lord; they have passed the test with faith intact and symbolizing their triumph a “Crown of Life” “The Crown of Righteousness” or “The crown of Glory” the common reward received by every believer “Eternal Life”. And we See evidence under trials with Genuine Love for God.
3. John Macarthur “A genuine Christian is not someone who at one point in time made a profession of faith in Christ, but it is a person who demonstrates true faith by ongoing love for God. Despite troubles and afflictions, Love of Him is certain evidence of true faith.

## Blame in Temptation

1. vs 13 John Adams said “All trials have an element of temptation. It presents certain openings to sin, whether it is designed or not, to act on the corrupt nature, and draws us into a forbidden course.”
2. God is not responsible for evil, God does not tempt us, but does test us to prove and improve our character.
3. Man is naturally inclined to shift the blame from himself to God. Remember Adam “The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the Tree” Adam said not my fault it’s your fault for giving me that woman.

### Paul’s Answer to this 1 Corinthians 10:13

4. V 14 James waste no time explaining where sin begins. “When he is Drawn away of his own lust” “The lust of the Flesh” “the lust of the eyes” “the pride of life”. **Drawn away & Enticed** This should perk the ears of the Fisherman and hunters in the room. **Drawn = To lure forth** Our lust is drawing us from safety and **Enticed = To lure with bait** First we get their attention with the bait and then we catch them. **The source of temptation is not God, or even Satan, but man’s own sinful heart.**

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, who can know it? He says Paraphrasing “The Lord search’s the heart, and tests the mind”

5. Vs 15 “Then” which denotes a sequence, once the hook is in, then “Lust hath Conceived” Once it comes together it “Bringeth” which means “To Beget” Gives Birth to Sin which means “To miss the Mark”. And missing the mark “When it is finished= Which means “Full grown” “Bringeth forth Death”.

Let me remind you that this cycle can be broken through the Lord Jesus. Jesus is the source of victory over sin and temptation.

Galatians 2:20

6. Vs 16 James is saying don’t let this cause you to wander, family of God. Don’t let it lead you astray or deceive you.

**7. Vs 17 God is not the author of temptation or of anything evil.**

**He is rather, one who gives good gifts to his people.**

**James uses Gift twice here because it has two different meanings. First the "Act of Giving" and second the "Result of Giving."**

**All good comes from above, coming down "Unending", from the framer of the universe, whose Goodness is unchanging.**

**Listen when the children of God are so abundantly and continually showered with blessings from above, why would anything evil have the slightest attraction to us?**

### **Born to Holiness**

**1. Vs 18 Who does it? "Of his own will"**

**It's Through God's sovereign will, Jesus washes away sin, grants forgiveness, and plants new life in each person who trust in Jesus.**

**2. What is it? "Begot He us"**

**God gives birth to a new spiritual life. A miracle of God.**

**2 Peter 1:4 "become partakers of the divine nature"**

**Jesus said "I came that they may have Life, & have it abundantly"**

**3. How does it Happen? "With the word of truth" 1 Peter 1:23-25**

**Through the word of God, Scripture, believers are born again.**

**4. Why is it Done? "That we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures"**

**We are the best of the crop. Rev 14:4 "They which follow the Lamb wherever he goes, these were redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb"**

**1. We need to be equipped with Joy, prayer, faith and Wisdom as we face trials and temptations in this life.**

**2. One Life will shortly pass and only what is done for Jesus will last**

**3. Let us come to the Lord boldly, not blaming God and others for the trials and temptations in our lives but confess it as it is our own lust and doubt that draws us away from Jesus**

**4. There is a perfect gift that has been given to each one of us, the Lord Jesus and the Word of God that equips us to be complete in every part.**