

WOMEN IN THE WORD FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

THE BOOK OF JAMES – Growing Up in Christ

Scripture Reference Notes – September 19, 2023

Lesson One

Trials – James 1:1-12

The Life Application Study Bible breaks the book of James down by chapter.

Chapter Summary:

Chapter 1: Confident stand – What a Christian has.

Chapter 2: Compassionate service – What a Christian does.

Chapter 3: Careful speech - What a Christian says.

Chapter 4: Contrite submission – What a Christian feels.

Chapter 5: Concerning sharing – What a Christian gives.

James 1:1 -James, (the half-brother of Jesus) and (introduces himself as), a servant, some say bondservant, of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations (the Jewish born-again believers).

Servant – someone who completely and willingly chooses to serve his master.

In the Greek -Doulos – absolute obedience, total surrender, and complete loyalty.

James emphasizes here that he is a fellow slave/servant to God in Christ, just like his readers.

Others described themselves in the same manner:

Romans 1:1 - Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:1 - Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus.

2 Peter 1:1 - Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ.

Recipients of the letter: To the twelve tribes refers to Jewish Christians scattered abroad.

James is writing to Jewish Christians, brothers in the Lord, he calls them brothers.

Wiersbe: “At least 19 times he addressed them as ‘brethren,’ indicating not only brothers in the flesh (fellow Jews) but also ‘brothers in the Lord.’” James calls them “scattered among the nations.”

Acts 8:1 - On that day a great persecution broke out against the church of Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.

Acts 11:19 - Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch telling the message only to the Jews.

After his opening statement in vs. 1: James gets right to the point. He discusses the Christian **facing trials** (NIV) and **temptations** (KJV) in verses 2-4.

James 1:2 - **Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, NIV or fall into various trials, NKJV.**

Consider it pure joy (NIV)

Consider it all joy (ESV)

Great joy (NLT)

A great joy (CSB)

Greek – Joy – Chara (joy, gladness, a source of joy).

Hebrews 12:2-3 - 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. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Harold Fickett: “The excruciating pain of the cross was not a source of rejoicing to the Master. He was joyful in the experience because of His ability to look forward to the future and realize what His crucifixion would accomplish.”

1 Thessalonians 1:6 - You became imitators of us and of the Lord, in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

Philippians 4:1 -Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

Philippians 2:2 -Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

2 Corinthians 8:2 - Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.

Romans 12:12 - Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Blue Letter Bible: “Christian joy is no mere gaiety that knows no gloom but is the result of the triumph of faith over adverse and trying circumstances, which instead of hindering, actually enhances it.”

Acts 5:41 - The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

Romans 5:3 - Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance.

1 Peter 4:13 - But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

Matthew 5:10-12 - Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Psalms 19:8 - The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

James says: Consider it pure joy, **when** you face trials of many kinds.

Trials/temptations. WHEN you (all believers) face trials of **many** or **various** (some translations) kinds: not **IF** you face trials of many or various kinds but **WHEN**.

John 16:33 - I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you (WILL) have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

1 Peter 1:6 - In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

Greek – trials – peirasmos.

James 1:12 – Blessed is the man who perseveres under TRIALS/TEMPTATIONS, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Can refer to tests that challenge the integrity of one's faith.

Trials from the outside. Various (**poikilos**): various colors, variegated, of various sorts, of uncertain derivation, various in character.

Isaiah 41:10 – So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Psalms 59:16 -But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble.

Isaiah 64:8 – Yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay; you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Isaiah 55:8-9 - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalms 77:19 - Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footsteps were not seen.

James 1: 3-4 -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.

Testing – **dokimion** – the genuine thing of your faith, your quality proven faith, your unalloyed pure faith.

James 1:5 - 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. Trust God, seek God, for wisdom and He will answer. Ask Him what to do.

Matthew 7:7-11 - Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Wisdom – **Sophia**, skillfulness.

Job 28:12 – But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell? **23** – God understands the way to it, and he also knows where it dwells. **28** – And he said to man, ‘The fear of the Lord – that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.

Proverbs 1:2-4 - for attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight; for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young.

Proverbs 2:10-11 - For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.

Proverbs 9:10-12 - The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For through me your days will be many, and years will be added to your life. If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer.

Proverbs 2:6-8 - For the Lord gives wisdom and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.

James says: he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

Ecclesiastes 2:26 – To the man who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge, and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God.

John 3:27 – To this John replied, ‘A man can receive only what is given him from heaven.’

Job 32:8 - But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding.

Hebrews 11:1 - “**Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.**”

In the account of the withering fig tree in **Matthew 21:21-22** Jesus said: “I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself in the sea,’ and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

Mark 11:24 - Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

James 1:6 - **But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like the wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.” 7. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8. He is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.**

Websters – doubt – a feeling of uncertainty or lack of conviction.

Matthew 8:23-26 - The he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. Then the disciples went and woke him saying, Lord save us! We are going to drown! He replied, you of little faith, why are you so afraid?

Matthew 14:29-31 - Then Peter got out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, Lord, save me! Immediately, Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. You of little faith, he said, why did you doubt?

James 1:8 - **He is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.**

Double-mindedness means: Webster’s - wavering in mind: undecided, vacillating, unstable. “A mind that waivers is not completely convinced that God’s way is best.” LASB.

Psalms 119:113-114 - I hate double-minded men, but I love your law. You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word. **James 4:8** - Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

James 3:17 - But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

Hebrews 11:17-19 - By faith, Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, ‘It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from the dead.

Psalm 25:4-5 - Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

James 1:9 – The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position.

High position – exalted

Exalted – to raise in rank, character, honor.

Matthew 23:12 - For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Psalm 91:14-15 - Because he loves me, says the Lord, I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.

Matthew 5:3 - Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

James 1:10-11 - But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wildflower.

For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls, and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.

Job 20:28 - A flood will carry off his house, rushing waters on the day of God’s wrath.

Proverbs 23:5 - Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle. **Proverbs 27:24** - For riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generation.

Ecclesiastes 2:18 - I hated all the things I had toiled under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me.

Job 14:2 - He springs up like a flower and withers away; like a fleeting shadow, he does not endure.

Psalm 103:15-16 - As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

Isaiah 40:6-8 - A voice says, ‘Cry out.’ And I said, ‘What shall I cry?’” “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flower of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.

Matthew 6:19-21 - Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

James 1:12 - Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Blessed – to be richly rewarded by God.

Matthew 5:10-12 - Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Crown – Four associations in Bible times: The crown of flowers worn at times of joy, at weddings and feasts; a mark of loyalty; victor's crown and the mark of honor and of dignity.

Psalm 21:3 - You welcome him with rich blessings and placed a crown of pure gold on his head.

Revelation 2:10 - Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you; the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Reward – spiritually matured/faith proven.

Psalm 66:10-12 - For you, O God, tested us; you refined us like silver. You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance.

Psalm 30:5 - For his anger lasts only for a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

Next week – Lesson 2 – Temptation (James 1:13-18)

CONVERSATION STARTERS WITH GOD

Keep it simple:

God, what should I do about

God, what do you think about

God, would you

God, why did this

Keep it real:

Be honest and authentic.

Talk to God about a concern you have right now:

I'm struggling with

I need help with

I don't understand why

I'm frustrated because

Keep showing up:

I'm hoping for

I'm thankful for

I'm excited about

Today I noticed