



What To Do When the Heat is On **James 1:1-12**

James 1:1, *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.*

Matthew 13:55-56, *Then they scoffed, “He’s just the carpenter’s son, and we know Mary, his mother, and his brothers—James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas. 56 All his sisters live right here among us. Where did he learn all these things?”*

James 1:2-4, *Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles 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.*

I. God wants us to prepare for the pressures of life. **James 1:2**

II. God wants us to perceive the purpose of the pressure. **James 1:3-4; ROM 8:28**

James 1:3-4, *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.*

Romans 8:28, *And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*

1 Peter 1:7, *These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.*

A. To perfect us. James 1:4; 2 COR 4:17

James 1:4, ... *for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.*

2 Corinthians 4:17, *For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!*

B. To position us for greater blessings. HEB 12:1-4

Hebrews 12:1-4, *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. 3 Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. 4 After all, you have not*

yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.

III. God wants us to accept His prescription for the pressures of life.
James 1:5-12

1 Corinthians 10:13, *The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.*

A. Ask God for wisdom. James 1:5

James 1:5, *If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.*

B. Put your trust in God alone. James 1:6-8

James 1:6-8, *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.

C. Be humble before God. James 1:9-11

James 1:9-11, *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.*

D. Look ahead to God's reward. James 1:12; 1 COR 10:13

1 Corinthians 10:13, *The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.*

James 1:12, *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.

APPLY God's Truths...

- 1. Are you experiencing the storms and pressures of life right now?**
- 2. Is your trust in Christ alone?**
- 3. What must you do to be completely obedient to God today**

