

James: Doing > Hearing*Called to Ultimate Joy*

1:1-8

Hebrews 6:1 *"Let us go on to maturity."*

- *Maturity is not about* _____.
- *Maturity is not about* _____.
- *Maturity is not about* _____.
- *Maturity is not about* _____.

_____ is what people say about us; _____ is what God says about us.

The book of James provides us with a manual on _____.

- The Author: *James, the eldest half-brother of Jesus Christ.*
- The Setting: *To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion*
- The Date: *AD 44-45, the earliest writing of the New Testament*

James takes head-on what is certainly one of the central problems of life – _____.

Biblical examples...

- David – **Psalm 13:1**
- Asaph – **Psalm 77:7-9; 73:3,13-14**
- Job – **Job 29:2a; 5a; 30:16-23; 31:35**
- Jesus – **Matthew 27:46**

In the end, each of these individuals, who were overwhelmed by the problem of pain, experienced a paradigm shift in their thinking that enabled them to rise above the pain. They stopped looking _____ their pain and, instead, began looking _____ their pain to a reality that buoyed them _____ their pain with an irrepressible _____.

1. God's purpose for trials is to help us _____ spiritually. (1:2-4)

- *Whenever you face trials*
- *Trials of many kinds*
- *Consider it pure joy (??? cp. **Hebrews 12:11**)*
- *Because you know*

- *The testing of your faith* (cp. **1 Peter 1:3-10**)
- *Produces perseverance* (cp. **Romans 5:3; 2 Timothy 3:12**)
- *That you may be mature and complete*

“It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until he has hurt him deeply.” A.W. Tozer

God allows us to suffer...

- ...to prove and develop our faith **John 11:14, 15; 1 Peter 1:6-9**
- ...to mature our character **Job 23:8-10; Romans 5:3-5; James 1:2-4**
- ...to protect us from pride **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**
- ...to teach us to obey God’s word **Psalm 119:67, 71; Hebrews 12:6-11**
- ...to prepare us for ministry **2 Corinthians 1:3-7**
- ...to glorify his name and accomplish his will in our lives **John 9:1-3; Romans 8:26-28**
- ...to let us share in Christ’s identity and work **John 15:18-21; Philippians 3:10; Colossians 1:24; 1 Peter 4:16**
- ...to prepare us to share in Christ’s glory **Romans 8:16-18; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 1 Peter 4:13**

2. God provides _____ in trials—the _____ to see them and respond to them as _____ would, if he were living your life. (1:5-8; cp. 1 Corinthians 1:24)

- *God gives wisdom _____* (cp. **Romans 8:32; Hebrews 11:6; Proverbs 1:7 et al; Psalm 33:18; 118:4; 147:1** – *the fear of the Lord = hope in his unfailing love; James 1:17*)

Biblical Examples...

- David – **Psalm 13:5-6**
- Asaph – **Psalm 77:11-13; 73:25-26, 28a**
- Job – **Job 23:10**
- Jesus – **Hebrews 5:8; 12:2**

- *God gives wisdom without _____*
- *God gives wisdom without _____*
- *God gives wisdom without _____*
- *IF we ask believing, without _____ (“doubt” that is double-minded, i.e., _____ - _____, unstable in all its ways)*

God uses the pain of life’s trials to blaze the trail for a journey to our _____. (cp. **1 John 2:28; Colossians 1:28-29**)

When we learn to embrace, by faith, God’s goodness in our trials, nothing in this world will _____ our joy. (cp. **Acts 5:41; 16:25**)

Recommended Reading:

Where is God When it Hurts? by Philip Yancy and *Shattered Dreams: God’s Unexpected Pathway to Joy* by Larry Crabb

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Hebrews 6:1 "Let us go on to maturity."

- Maturity is not about **age**.
- Maturity is not about **appearance**.
- Maturity is not about **achievement**.
- Maturity is not about **academics**.

Recognition is what people say about us; **character** is what God says about us.The book of James provides us with a manual on **spiritual maturity**.

- The Author: *James, the eldest half-brother of Jesus Christ.*
- The Setting: *To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion*
- The Date: *AD 44-45, the earliest writing of the New Testament*

James takes head-on what is certainly one of the central problems of life – **the problem of pain**.

Biblical examples...

- David – **Psalm 13:1**
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- Jesus – **Matthew 27:46**

In the end, each of these individuals, who were overwhelmed by the problem of pain, experienced a paradigm shift in their thinking that enabled them to rise above the pain. They stopped looking **AT** their pain and, instead, began looking **THROUGH** their pain to a reality that buoyed them **IN** their pain with an irrepressible **JOY**.

1. God's purpose for trials is to help us grow up spiritually. (1:2-4)

- *Whenever you face trials*
- *Trials of many kinds*
- *Consider it pure joy (??? cp. **Hebrews 12:11**)*
- *Because you know*

- *The testing of your faith* (cp. **1 Peter 1:3-10**)
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2. God provides wisdom in our trials—the skill to see them and respond to them as Jesus would if he were living your life. (1:5-8; cp. **1 Corinthians 1:24)**

- *God gives wisdom generously* (cp. **Romans 8:32; Hebrews 11:6; Proverbs 1:7 et al; Psalm 33:18; 118:4; 147:1 – the fear of the Lord = hope in his unfailing love; James 1:17**)

Biblical Examples...

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- Asaph – **Psalm 77:11-13; 73:25-26, 28a**
- Job – **Job 23:10**
- Jesus – **Hebrews 5:8; 12:2**

- *God gives wisdom without partiality*
- *God gives wisdom without finding fault*
- *God gives wisdom without equivocation*
- *IF we ask believing, without doubt (“doubt” that is double-minded, i.e., two-souled, unstable in all its ways)*

God uses the pain of life’s trials to blaze the trail for a journey to our eternal good. (cp. **1 John 2:28; Colossians 1:28-29**)

When we learn to embrace, by faith, God’s goodness in our trials, nothing in this world will repress our joy. (cp. **Acts 5:41; 16:25**)

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