



## Faith on Trial

James 1:1-12

**The Bottom Line:** We can rejoice in our suffering because Christ rejoiced in His.

### **Introduction:**

Today, we are beginning a study titled, *Faith the Works: Discovering Practical Christianity in the Book of James*.

“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings” (James 1:1).

James, the brother of Jesus and leader of the Jerusalem church, addresses himself as a servant who desires to encourage the dispersed believers to cultivate active, sustainable faith.

Through repeated themes and instructions, James prescribes important attitudes and practices that will carry the believer as a faithful witness on Earth until they reach eternity.

### **Truth:**

To open his letter, James applies some radical perspective shifts to the one thing which all these believers have experienced at some point or another – suffering.

**Look with me at James 1:1-12.**

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## **Application & Conclusion**

The only boast we have is Jesus Christ. Our lives, circumstances, positions, possessions, and status can all change in an instant. Jesus Christ never changes. He is God and Lord over all – Lord over His Church and whatever difficulties may come their way.

He is the One who, “for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God” (cf. Hebrews 12:2). We can rejoice in our suffering because Christ rejoiced in His.

He suffered many trials, the greatest of which was the cross, but after He suffered, God raised Him to life and rewarded His obedience. God will do the same for us. Remember, “after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you” (1 Peter 5:10).

So, how will you respond when suffering comes your way? Will you consider it joy, seek God for wisdom, and embody humility? Will you continue to hope in the Lord’s salvation and be a witness for Him *in* and *through* your suffering?

“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him” (James 1:12).

### **Reflection Questions:**

**1. What does this teach me about God?**

**2. What does this teach me about me?**

**3. How do I apply this to my life?**