

The image depicts a vintage letter-writing scene. A piece of aged, yellowed, and torn paper is laid out on a dark wooden surface. In the top left corner, there is a small, round, light-colored inkwell filled with dark ink. On the right side, a black quill pen with a silver-colored ferrule and nib lies diagonally. Below the quill, there is a circular red wax seal, partially broken, with a dark string tied around it. The text "A letter from James" is centered on the paper in a dark brown, serif font.

A letter from
James

Joy in the Midst of Trials



James 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord
Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered
among the nations: Greetings.

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,
whenever you face **trials of many kinds**, ³
because you know that the testing of your faith
produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish
its work so that you may be **mature** and
complete, not lacking anything.

Various Trials?

1. A medical diagnosis
2. A loss of job & financial pressure
3. An accusation against your character
4. A dissolved marriage
5. A wayward child
6. A sudden loss of a loved one



How Should We Respond During Trials?

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should **ask** God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

Unhealthy Ways to Respond to Trials?

1. Focusing on the trial instead of Jesus
2. Isolation from others (we need community)
3. Unhealthy emotions like worry, anxiety, depression
4. Mask the pain with alcohol, food, etc.
5. Complain, become bitter, or combative

Seek Godly Wisdom During Trials

1. Meet with Jesus by reading the Bible, praying, memorizing and meditating on scripture
(see Rom 8:28)(1 Peter 5:6-11)
2. Meet with others who are wise and seek counsel
3. Eat healthy, get proper rest and exercise
4. Wait on the Lord and ask God what He is teaching you during this trial

9 Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. 10 But the rich should take pride in their humiliation — since they will pass away like a wild flower. 11 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 will fade away even while they go about their business.

¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.



How Will You Face Trials?