

James 1:3-12
“Help Me To Understand This” (Part #2)

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (James 1:3-12)

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: **“Help Me To Understand This” (Part #2)**

~ INTRO ~

LAST WEEK...

- In (Part #1) of this study we covered the background of (James).
 - In order to gain perspective on who James was...
 - And how his **epistle of truth** balances out...
 - The **Gospel of grace!**

WE CAME TO UNDERSTAND...

- That **proximity to Jesus doesn't guarantee faith!**
 - James was raised in the same house as Jesus...
 - And early-on dismissed Jesus!

HOWEVER...

- Everything changed after He saw the resurrected Christ.

SO... JAMES IS WRITING...

- To exhorting Christians to live an authentic faith in a difficult world!
 - AND his main point is...
 - **Real Faith Produces Genuine Works** – (Spiritual maturity).

THE IDEA IS GROWING UP IN THE FAITH!

CONSIDER YOUR NATURAL LIFE FOR A MOMENT...

- Birth / child / teenager / young adult / & adult.
 - There's a progression with time.
 - And at each stage you assumed responsibilities.

IF YOUR PARENTS...

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- Just let you lay in your bed and drink formula from a baby bottle...
 - How tragic would that be!?!

RESEARCH SAYS...

- Simple neglect is 65% worse for a child that outright abuse!
 - (Daniel Goleman Ph.D. – Emotional Intelligence)

NOW CONSIDER...

- Each phase of your Christian life.
 - Growth should be happening as you exercise yourself...
 - And assume responsibility.

LISTEN...

- God is looking for mature men & women to carry on His work!

HOWEVER...

- The problem of our time...
 - Is that church attendance is dwindling across the nation.

AND... IN AN EFFORT TO RETAIN PEOPLE...

- Too many churches have turned into entertainment zones...
 - Catering to consumer driven baby Christians!
 - (2 Tim 3:7) NKJV

WHAT PASTORS ARE SUPPOSE TO DO...

- Is make disciples by equipping the Saints for the work of ministry
 - (Eph. 4:12) NKJV

THIS HAPPENS AS WE TEACH THE WORD...

- In a balanced capacity.
 - I can't just serve you candy...
 - Or you'll never grow to be health.

SO... JAMES DEALS WITH TOPICS...

- That keep Christians spiritually immature.

OK... REMEMBER LAST WEEK...

- We learned there's 108-verses in James.
 - And 54-of the verses are “imperatives.”

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- Meaning: Urgent calls to action.

POINT #1 – BUILDING BLOCKS: (vv.2-5)

Block #1 = Count (v.2)

This gave us the initial **perspective...**

- To count it all joy.

LITERALLY TO...

- Consider & evaluate what’s happening during a trial.

WHY?

SO WE CAN OVERCOME...

- The immature emotion...
 - And adjust our attitude toward God’s intended purpose!

Block #2 = Know (Grk. Ginosko) (v.3)

- Knowing the person / character / mind / & plans of God.
 - (Jer. 29:11)

THE ONLY WAY GOD...

- Can develop character in our lives is thru trials.

SATAN OFTEN DEFEATS...

- Ignorant or immature Christians (i.e. *God doesn’t care about me*).
 - BUT he can’t overcome the Christian...
 - Who *Knows (Ginosko)* Gods word!

(1 John 2:13) NKJV

- A progression of faith into maturity.

THE MATURE CHRISTIAN...

- Has come to KNOW (2 Cor. 4:17) NLT

Block #3 = Let (v.4)

- This imperative focuses in on a *Surrendered Will*.
 - We already know God’s aim is for us to come to maturity!

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- But we have to cooperate with Him.

(Eph. 2:8-10) NLT

THIS ILLUSTRATES...

- Three areas God is at work in our lives:

- 1) The work God does *for us*
- 2) The work God does *in us*
- 3) The work God does *thru us*

Block #4 = Ask (v.5)

WHEN WE'RE IN A TRIAL...

- And are at a loss for what to do...
 - We are to ask for *wisdom*!

IT'S BEEN SAID...

- *Knowledge is the ability to take things apart...*
 - *While wisdom is the ability to put them together.*

SOME OF THE TOOLS...

- God uses to build:
 - a) Frustrations
 - b) Perplexity
 - c) Suffering
 - d) Sickness
 - e) Sorrow

HERE'S THE POINT:

- God wants our FAITH in Him, to be bigger than our circumstances!
 - He wants us to have a faith that is **stable!**
- So we MUST *ask for wisdom*
 - To make use of what we're going thru.

BUT...

- There's a condition attached to it.

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THE CONDITION IN...

- (v.6) is to ask in *faith*.

AS WE'VE...

- Walked thru the **building blocks** of (vv.2-5)...
- We're to put our faith into action by applying what we've learned.

WE LEARNED...

- *Trials* are the resistance training to help us grow UP!

HOWEVER...

- If we don't apply the lessons along the way...
- We stall out in doubt (v.7).
- And loyalty is divided between God & the world (v.8).

(James 4:8) Capture the flavor of being double-minded.

- It's a reference to being an unfaithful lover.

(v.9) The poor

(v.10) The rich

~ IN CLOSING ~

(v.12)

THE END RESULT...

- Is blessing once we pass the test!
- And the benefit is that God makes sense of the trial...
 - God rewards the individual...
 - And God grows the person.

I WANT TO INVITE YOU TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN...

- And have your sins forgiven...
- And join the cause of Jesus.

~ LET'S PRAY ~