

The background of the image is a dramatic, dark sky filled with heavy, grey clouds. Several bright, jagged lightning bolts are visible, with one prominent bolt striking down towards the bottom center of the frame. The overall mood is intense and powerful.

FAITH THAT STANDS IN THE **STORM**

JAMES 1

- Storm-Proof Faith is Not A Storm-Free Life;
it is A God-Anchored Life.

1. When Life Shakes You: Count, Don't Collapse (James 1:2–4)

- Don't just look at the heat of the fire; look at what God is doing through the fire.

- Always see the Fire as a Furnace,
not a Funeral

“Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.” James 1:3

- God is not trying to Break You; He is trying to Make You.

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**“Let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”
James 1:4**

- Hardship is the Furnace that burns away our Pride

2. When Questions Hit You: Do 2 Things; Ask and Anchor (vv. 5–8)

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach.” James 1:5

- When you're Confused and overwhelmed, come to God and ask for Wisdom, not just Relief

James 1:6-8

“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea Driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord, & he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

- Put Your Anchor in God, not in Feelings

3. When Status Blinds You, Look Past the Labels (vv. 9–12)

James 1:12

“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

- When the Storm is Raging, Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

4. When Temptation Pulls You, Own It, Don't Blame It (vv. 13–18)

“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.” James 1:13

James 1:15-18

“Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.”

- **Desire Leads to Deception, Deception to Decision, and Decision to Death.**

5. When the Word Confronts You, Do It, Don't Just Hear It (vv. 19–27)

**“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”
James 1:19**

James 1:22-24

“Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” The one who hears but doesn’t do is like a man who looks in a mirror, sees his face, then walks away and forgets what he looks like.”

“But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it... this one will be blessed in what he does.” James 1:25

- “The Law of Liberty” = The Word of the Gospel that has set you Free, and now Trains You How to Live Free.

James 1:26-27

“If anyone among you thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless. Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

- **Three Tests of Real Faith: Control the Tongue and Visit Orphans and Widows in Trouble, and Keep Yourself Unspotted from the World.**

- Real Faith shows up in your Mouth, in your Compassion, and in your Living.