



Closing the Gap Between Belief and Behavior!

July 6, 2025 – The Book of James

Trials: Rewards or Temptation!

James 1:12-16

¹²Blessed 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.

¹³Let no one say when he is **tempted**, “I am being **tempted** by God,” for God cannot be **tempted** with evil, and he himself **tempts** no one. ¹⁴But each person is **tempted** when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. ¹⁶Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.

¹⁷Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Matthew 25:21 (and 22–23)

²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

James 4:1–3

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your **passions** are at war within you?

²You **desire** and do not have, so you murder. You **covet** and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.

³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your **passions**.

1. Amidst trials, God is strengthening your faith!

→ Always remember that God is present and working, making your faith stronger!

> *James 1:2–3, Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.*

ACTION: Seek by looking and asking how you can respond with faith!

2. Amidst trials, God rewards your steadfast faith!

James 1:12

> when we go through trials and remain trusting and following Christ, our faith grows stronger (steadfast)!

> and He rewards us:

1 – with stronger faith that makes you perfect and lacking nothing! (1:3-4)

2 – gives us wisdom for trials if we ask in faith! (1:5-8)

3 – we are *blessed / happy*. Rejoice (1:2). Beatitudes!

4 – crown of life (1:12b)

5 – Experience the fruit of the Spirit! Galatians 5:22f

ACTION: Seek His rewards and blessings from your strong faith!

3. Amidst trials, God never makes you sin!

James 1:13 and 1 Corinthians 10:13

Temptation here is enticing and luring you to sin.

Blame: God is doing this! I can’t handle this!

4. Amidst trials, your own passions draw you to sin!

James 1:14-15 and James 4:1-3

→ **Your own desires draw you away:** “*I want this!*”

James 4:1–3 (also see Romans 7; Galatians 5:19; “double-minded”)

ACTION: Recognize and fight your “own passions” that pull you to sin!

Application questions on the back →

--- Trials: Rewards or Temptations? ---

July 6, 2025

SUNDAY after church...

Think through your morning and: 1) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you were able to give! 2) List and praise the Lord for specific encouragement you received! 3) List songs or lyrics that touched your heart.

MONDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTED** James 1:2-3 teach us that God is working through trials with the specific purpose of building your faith to be more steadfast. Think about a recent trial you've gone through. How has God made a way for your faith in Him to grow.

PRAY: Pray over your observations and applications.

TUESDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** God says He rewards us for steadfast faith and trust in Him during trials. We listed some ways He rewards you from well known verses. List a time when you experienced this. **Pray:** Pray over your applications.

WEDNESDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** Write out a time when you were tempted to blame God for a trial and how it was more than you could face. Now read 1 Corinthians 10:13 (on front sidebar) and write out how this verse works during trials. **Pray:** Pray over your applications.

THURSDAY and FRIDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** Write out some examples of how you wanted your own way so badly that you bypassed faith and trust in God and forfeited His rewards.

PRAY: Pray over your observations and applications.

SATURDAY

Prepare your heart for Sunday's gathering by being ready to fully engage in the worship.