



The Gap!
Is there a gap between your beliefs and your behavior?
June 1, 2025 – James' Letter

James 1:1–4 (ESV)

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

²Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

³for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

⁴And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Mark 8:33

But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

2 Corinthians 4:16–18

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

¹⁷For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 5:7

for we walk by **faith**, not by sight.

Romans 4:19–20

¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

²⁰No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,

Psalms 16:11

You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Part 1 - To bring the Gap between our belief and life together, God uses trials. (James 1:1-4)

Introduction: it centers on your faith!

1. Trials test our faith!

James 1:2. Also see: Acts 8:1-3; 18:2; 11:19; Mark 8:32-33

Trials throw us, surprises us! We fight back! Pray to remove it!

The "gap" begins...

2. Testing our faith builds steadfastness!

James 1:3-4. Also see Romans 5:1-5; 1 Peter 1:1-9; 2 Peter 1:4-8

Grow a steadfast faith:

1) Look by faith to Jesus first!

James 1:1. Romans 1:17; Hebrews 11:6

"The righteous shall live by faith"

2) Seek His presence and purpose!

James 1:3-4; Romans 5:3-4; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; 5:7

3) Make a faith decision!

James 1:2. Also see Romans 6:11; 4:19-20; Luke 1:38; 1 Cor. 15:58

4) Enter into His joy!

James 1:2. Also see John 15:11; Psalm 16:11

Lamentations 3:22–23
The **steadfast love** of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
²³they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

Application questions on the back →

--- To bring the Gap between our belief and life together, God uses trials! ---

June 1, 2025 – James 1:1-4

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** A "gap" in our spiritual life is when our behavior (thoughts, words, deeds) are different from our beliefs (Biblical truth we certainly understand and believe. Can you list some areas where you see this in your life? How does the lack of faith cause this gap?

PRAY: Pray over your observations and applications.

TUESDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** Why are we surprised by trials and fight them and pray against them? Write out what are we missing.

Pray: Pray over your applications.

WEDNESDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** From your notes on the front and verses, write out what God is doing in trials in your life and how this understanding changes everything.

Pray: Pray over your applications.

THURSDAY and FRIDAY

READ Sunday's verses. **DISCUSSION STARTER:** We can often finish our studies without an clear application. We are called to make a decision in this passage. We are to look at our trials, understand what God is doing, then walk through them with a steadfast faith. Look at the verses and write out what a steadfast faith looks like in the areas God has pointed out in your life. This is your application, built on what you've learned. **PRAY:** Pray over your observations and applications.

SATURDAY

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