

THE BOOK OF JAMES
James 1:1-8
Rooted
Not If... But When



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**THERE WILL BE GROWING PAINS FOR
CHURCH AND INDIVIDUAL BELIEVERS.**



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James 1:1–8

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

[2] Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, [3] for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. [4] And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

[5] If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. [6] But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. [7] For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; [8] he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.



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Context Building

Authorship – James

- Younger half brother of Jesus
- Did not believe Jesus is Messiah until after the resurrection
- Pastor of the Jerusalem church



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Context Building

Authorship – James

Dates

- Early to mid AD 40
- Before the Jerusalem Council AD 48-49 (Acts 15)
- Church began AD 33-34 (Acts 2)
- Historical record – James executed AD 62



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Context Building

Authorship – James

Dates

Servanthood

- James takes the role of servant
- No inherited position
- Equating Jesus and God
- Inspired by the Holy Spirit



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Context Building

Authorship – James

Dates

Servanthood

Audience

- 12 tribes scattered
- Historically scattered throughout the Old Testament
- Church scattered – Acts 8:1
- Church still scattered awaiting Christ return



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Character Building

Anchored Response

- Count it all joy
 - Consider all in light of God's plan
 - Happiness is anchored in gratification and pleasure based on circumstances
 - Christ obedience to the Father

Hebrews 12:2

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.




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Character Building

Anchored Response

- Count it all joy
 - Consider all in light of God's plan
 - Happiness is anchored in gratification and pleasure based on circumstances
 - Christ obedience to the Father
 - Happiness present realities of pleasure vs. Joy eternal realities of God's promise



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Character Building

Anchored Response

- Count it all joy
- Various trials
 - Righteous test

Job 1:20–22

Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.



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Character Building

Anchored Response

- Count it all joy
- Various trials
 - Righteous test
 - Reaction to rebellion

Lamentations 3:22–25

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.



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Character Building

Anchored Response

- Count it all joy
- Various trials
 - Righteous test
 - Reaction to rebellion
 - Retaliation for obedience

Ephesians 6:11–12

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.



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Character Building

Anchored Response

- Count it all joy
- Various trials
 - Righteous test
 - Reaction to rebellion
 - Retaliation for obedience
 - Realities of persecution

Acts 8:1

And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.




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Character Building

Anchored Response

- Count it all joy
- Various trials
- Faith
 - Essential of salvation
 - Essential for growth
 - Essential for hope



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Character Building

Anchored Response

Joy Drive Character Refinement

- Sanctification is the refining process to remove more of you (humanity) and reflect more of Jesus (godliness)



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Character Building

Anchored Response

Joy Drive Character Refinement

- Sanctification is the refining process to remove more of you (humanity) and reflect more of Jesus (godliness)
- Steadfastness (endurance) is the persistence to never stop regardless of the circumstances



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Character Building

Anchored Response

Joy Drive Character Refinement

Maturing Faith

- Unwavering heart, action, and faith
- Perfect and complete to face trials with God
- Lacking in nothing – total dependence on God
- Total dependency on God does not come naturally for believers; constant surrender is necessary



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Character Building

Matthew 5:10–12

[10] “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[11] “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. [12] Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”



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Character Building

Romans 5:2–5

[2] Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. [3] Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, [4] and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, [5] and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.



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Committed Belief

God's Wisdom

- God-given and God-centered discernment
- Desire and pursue God's wisdom

Proverbs 2:3–6

...yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;



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Committed Belief

God's Wisdom

- God-given and God-centered discernment
- Desire and pursue God's wisdom
- God's vantage point not ours
- Ask God
 - God gives generously
 - God gives without regret



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Committed Belief

God's Wisdom

But... Faith

- Certainty that God will answer
 - Certainty God's wisdom will be right
 - Certainty to trust God's wisdom
 - Certainty God will provide all
- Faith is settled trust and confidence in God based
on His revealed character and promises



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Committed Belief

God's Wisdom

But... Faith

No Faith

- Doubter in God
- A wave driven by the wind
 - Tossed not rooted
- Will receive nothing from God
- Attempting to live for the world and for God
- Unstable in all his ways

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.



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How Do You Face Trials?



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