



## Perfecting Faith: The Book of James

# Faith Under Trial

### Keeping the Faith

*James 1:1-2*

#### A. Keep Your Faith *James 1:2; Psalms 30:5*

*“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials...”*

1. God’s perspective of suffering!
  - Count it joy! Gk-hegomai: To count or calculate!
  - English-hegemony: Leadership or dominance.
  - We are to calculate our suffering and then let **JOY** lead, rule, and dominate the experience.
  - When—not if!

#### B. Grow Your Faith *James 1:3-4*

*“...knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”*

1. God’s purpose for our suffering!
  - Perfect: To finish well
  - Complete: Whole; to live a full life.
  - Lacking nothing: Fulfilled in Jesus *I Thes 5:23-24*

#### C. Understand Your Faith *James 1:5-11*

*“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 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.”*

1. God’s power for suffering.
  - Our faith must rest in the eternal wisdom of God, not in the passing wisdom of man.
  - Nothing is impossible with God—if we doubt Him we will have no stability in time of trouble.
  - An example: The poor man *James 1:9-11* Whether rich or poor—we can walk in power through every crisis of life.

#### D. Enjoy Your Faith *James 1:12*

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

1. God’s promise after suffering!
  - Blessed: *Gk-makarious*—content, happy, peaceful joyful.
  - Approved: *GK-dokimas*—metal tried by fire; purified; coins that are approved for circulation
  - It’s not when the trial is over—it is when we are APPROVED [been tried] by the trial that counts.

*“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ...”*

*I Peter 1:6-7 KJV*



### Who Was James?

- James was the natural son of Mary and Joseph and the half-brother of Jesus *Mark 6:3*
- During Jesus life time, James did not believe in Him as the Divine Messiah sent from God. *John 7:2-5*
- Only after the resurrection did James finally realize the truth. In *1 Cor 15:7* Paul lists James among the individuals to whom the risen Messiah (Christ) appeared.
- After seeing Jesus almost daily for most of his life, James was totally changed by this single post-resurrection visit!
- James, not Peter nor any of the other disciples became the leader of the Jerusalem church. The skeptic became a servant.
- As missionaries went into all the world and came back to report to the church, it was James to whom they reported. *Acts 15:12-21; 21:18.*
- James described himself as a ‘bond-servant.’ *James 1:1* The bond-servant (*Gk-doulos*) was born a slave and deprived of all personal freedom and totally obedient and loyal to his master. Abraham *Gen 26:24*, Isaac *Gen 24:14* and Jacob *Eze 28:25* were also servants of God.
- The Jewish historian Josephus indicates that James was stoned to death in the year A.D. 62.