

The power of Perseverance. You know There are no promises from God in the Bible that He will place a bubble of protection around you... ask people like Job, Esther, Joseph, David, Daniel, Peter or Paul...or the person sitting next to you yet it is One of the hardest parts of being a follower of Jesus...is when we are led or Jesus allows trouble and trials inot our lives... He should have taken a different road...because we just got T boned....on this one...

It is often during the uninvited, unexpected, and unwanted trials-those that can be devastating-that Goid uses to mold and shape our character...

As we start out this new study of the book of James ...he immediately opens his letter to the people of God this way....

NLT James 1:1 This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing to the “twelve tribes”— Jewish believers scattered abroad. Greetings! ² Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

First of all....Who starts out a letter like this? let me rephrase it...Hi! it is really a positive that you are experiencing many trials of faith. What a wonderful thing this is, as it is through these challenges that you develop perseverance. So, don't rush the process-your endurance and faith need to be fully developed. More trials will come to aid

in that development, but rest assured, your faith will be perfected, and as a result, you will become fully mature and lacking nothing.

*******To fully grasp the beginning of his letter, we need to understand the background context.**

- **The author, James is understood by scholars to be the half-brother of Jesus.**
- **We don't know a lot about him. We do know that Jesus half-brothers were originally non-believers...**
- **As revealed in these Gospel accounts, Mark records Jesus family coming to do an intervention on him!**
- **He had just chosen the 12 apostles and had been performing many miracles...he was entering into the peak of his popularity ...**
- **But mostly were worried about Him for people were calling him the Messiah and he was drawing the ire of the Religious leaders**

NLT Mark 3:20 Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹ And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

they arrive...

³¹ And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. ³² And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you."

*****Later in John 7...Jesus was undeterred, though his brothers were still unbelieving they recognized his increasing popularity so they offer him some advice.....**

NLT John 7: ² But soon it was time for the Jewish Festival of Shelters, ³ and Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, where your followers can see your miracles! ⁴ You can't become famous if you hide like this! If you can do such wonderful things, show yourself to the world!" ⁵ For even his brothers didn't believe in him.

- **There is no record of them participating in any part of His three year ministry nor being present at the cross.**

But we do have his means of conversion...

NLT 1 Cor 15:4 He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. ⁵ He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles.

- **After his conversion....**He quickly became a leader, it is generally understood that he was probably one of the main pastors or leaders of the Jerusalem church. **It is One of the first New Testament books written.**
- **His letter is written to Jerusalem Jewish Christians,** who have **had fled Jerusalem during the second** wave of Persecution ...
- (1) The persecution of the church by Saul in 35 AD ([Acts 7–8](#)), and (2) Herod's persecution in 44 AD ([Acts 12](#)).

- **Written Around 50A.D. six years into the second wave of Jewish the people are struggling under the weight of continued suffering and trials**
- **James encourages them to persevere and maintain their Faith despite these tremendous trials, which impact every area of their lives.**
- **They are experiencing the loss of family, homes, jobs and income, trauma, some have physical illnesses and financial hardship...moral dilemmas.**

*******This letter from James seeks to clarify what it genuinely means to follow Christ by Faith. It emphasizes that one's level of faith will be reflected in their life, especially during times of trial**

James' letter is not so much a letter of doctrine as it is a letter of practicality in living out your Christian faith

As Peter would later write it this way ...: *NLT 1 Peter 1:7* *These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies **gold**—though your faith is far more precious than mere **gold**. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.*

So with this knowledge...let us look at the opening of this letter through the eyes of those who would have received it...

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faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

James wanted them and by extension us... us to know some things about trials, Trials require Perseverance....Perserverance is just Patience stretched out to accomplish their tasks of bringing reward into our lives...!!!!...

******What can we learn from these verses? there are a number of take aways from these verses...**

NLT Jmes1:1 This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing to the “twelve tribes”—Jewish believers scattered abroad. Greetings!

- **James referred to himself as a slave to Jesus...God the Father and Jesus...they are the shot callers and he is to respond as their slave...**
- **And God is aware who they are, Jewish Believers and members of the twelve tribes...and where they are who had scattered abroad.**

² Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.

- **God is well aware of the various troubles/trials they are facing, they are not forgotten.**
- **They should have a more comprehensive perspective on their troubles. There is more going on then is visible...**
- **These troubles also create opportunity for Joy**

How?

³ *For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow*

1. Your Faith being tested gives Faith the opportunity to grow...take Joy in that! ...your core beliefs about God are being challenged expanded in understanding...

2. These Troubles are not just something happening to them but something that will have benefit for them.

Verse 4 So let it grow....

3. Endurance and Perseverance grow our Faith incrementally.

Verse 4..... for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

So what does this endurance gain us? :

So we must let endurance in Faith grow, until it is fully developed...Matured...an Adult in your Faith

1. Perfect= whole...unshakeable in your Faith

2. Complete= well rounded, Full of Faith, enough for any situation

3. Lacking need... finally acceptance is embraced which leads to contentment...and we discover Joy again!

How do we do this? We must learn to live our life as if we are following a compass....a Compass Sets direction... directing one toward a predetermined destination

• A compass only points in one direction at a time

- One either moves toward a destination or away from it...regardless of the speed of travel or the duration of the journey
- As long as we follow the direction indicated by the compass, we can be assured that we will certainly reach our destination
- **God's spirit and His word is our compass...we will not get lost by following it and will be assured of reaching the goal...**

Or we will live by A clock which Simply measures time...

- When one chooses to live by a clock...one gauges everything on how much time it takes...and time is moving fast or dragging when life is lived by time...
- **Waiting is killer...and waiting a long time is the worst!**
- **We want it and want it now...we want it over and over now...**
- **Living by the clock is the enemy of endurance and maturity!**

Now...If endurance must be fully developed...that means something start its development ...so trials start and have a completion date!!

- James tells us it is a high compliment to go through a trial or test...it means you are being prepared for your next step of Maturity

- For when your Faith is fully developed... you will be a spiritual Beast in Character, you will know by experience how to get through trials...
- which makes you ready to endure and overcome anything or any obstacle by faith...
- and that is God's ordained goal when troubles come our way trials...
- Faith is not seeing the cup half full, or even half empty...Faith knows a full pitcher of water is on the way....

As Paul learned and taught while imprisoned in a Roman Jail for two years...

NLT PHP 1: 6 And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

I know this before there is visible evidence to that effect.

- James ends this opening with these words of encouragement...and warning

He has given us the way to broaden our perspective and understanding of God's purpose in Trials... but if you need wisdom (the ability to apply this knowledge in your trial)ask God for help

NLT James 1:5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. 6 But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone.

- **He will not rebuke you or be mad at you....but keep your faith in God alone...not the removal of the trial or him**

answering your prayers as you want him too...but trust in Him alone!

- **Do not waver...**

⁶ Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

- **For if you waver or doubt God is still in control and is working toward his intended goals.**
- **You will not receive anything more from God...for he has already spoken his will about this....there is no more for him to say....so ask for strength, more Faith, comfort, help, peace of mind...**
- **If these are not evident in You through this trial you will continue to exhibit instability not just in this trial but in all aspects of your life.....**
- **end**