

JAMES STUDY

CHAPTER 1:1-4

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM-292 APRIL 25, 1998

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“ Faith - Well Done ”

THE THEME OF THE BOOK:

James 1:22

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

INTRODUCTION: The Reading of the Text 1:1-4

THE BOOK *a practical instruction on how to live*

1-2 Peter, 1,2,3 John, Jude and James are known as the General Epistles.
General meaning Catholic or Universal and Epistle meaning the writings, message or instruction

James, The Book

written between 60-62 ad. James was a letter sent out to those who had received the gospel - had followed Christ but had a limited understanding of the Grace of God and how it “Practically Works” in the life of a believer.

The Believers had Erred in their Theology

We can Sin freely because Grace can handle it.
“being forgiven magnifies the grace of God”

Romans 6:1-2

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?
Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

Christianity is a Faith that Does

At this hour, worldwide, in nearly every country there are hospitals, schools, libraries, and humanitarian relief funded and staffed by Christians.

THE TIMES *in which the letter was written*

The Early church was made up primarily of Jewish believers. They had listened carefully to the preaching of John the Baptist and of Jesus Himself and others. They had either seen or had eyewitness accounts of the miracles and messages given by Jesus. They had searched the scriptures to determine whether the claims of Jesus matched up to the Old Testament claims of the coming Messiah.

It had concluded that - Jesus Stood Alone as Man's Deliverer

Acts 1:3

to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by **many infallible** proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

1 Timothy 3:16a

without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh...

For the **(New)** Believer, The book of James is a life saver. Because it forewarns the Christian on what to expect in the days and years ahead

THE TEXT *James cuts to the chase and to the doctrine*

James 1:1-4

James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings. 2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various **trials**, 3 knowing that the **testing** of your faith produces patience. 4 But let **patience** have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

“ Faith - Well Done ”

1.) **The Trials** of the Christian's Faith vv. 1

2.) **The Proving** of the Christian's Faith vv. 2

3.) **The Development** of the Christian's Faith vv. 3

1.) The Trials of the Christian Faith

James, a **bondservant** of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.

1a.) His Servants are Known - Trials are Customized - vv. 1a

James, a BondServant

“It all Begins with his name”

There where 4 (four) James' in the New Testament

#1 - James the less - Luke 6:16

#2 - James, John & him the sons of thunder, (died 44 ad)

#3 - James the son of Alphaeus

Known as 'James the just'

the bishop/pastor of the church in Jerusalem

Galatians 2:9

The son of Joseph and Mary

He had at least **two** sisters, **three** full brothers, and
one step brother

Mark 6:3

"Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" And they were offended at Him.

James was Jesus' Half Brother

Matthew 13:55-56

"Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? "And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?"

Being Called by Name generates a Real,

true sense of being owned of God

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped
for every good work

...James was a man who God had called
to a public Ministry

Satan knew the disciples' names

Peter, Paul and Mary's name

Acts 19:13-16

Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." ¹⁴Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. ¹⁵And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" ¹⁶Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

I wonder if Satan knows your name, my name, in hell

Luke 10:17-20

Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." ¹⁸And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. ²⁰Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

He has intimate knowledge of His own

John 10:2-3

"But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them..."

Example

Luke 10:41

And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.

Example

Luke 22:31

And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.

Example

Acts 9:4

Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

1b.) The Servant of God has been *Called*

vv. 1b

**Not all Christians are called to be on staff
but every Christian is called to be a servant - full time!!!**

1c.) The Servant of God has been *Exalted*

vv. 1c

A **servant** of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

*

A BondServant

grk 1401 doulos (doo'-los);

a bond (-man), or selected servant.

A Slave that was Purchased and Taken into the Family
at the end of his servitude, the slave would be set free unless he desired to stay on.
At that the master would adopt him into the family as a family-member-slave

Dr. Luke (author of Luke's gospel & acts) was believed to have been a wealthy man's physician who was later freed to minister with Paul for Christian service

an Awl,
the mark of Identification and Ownership,
placed in the right ear

Exodus 29:20a

Identification and ownership

"Then you shall kill the ram, and take some of its blood and put it on the tip of the right ear of Aaron and on the tip of the right ear of his sons

Verse 1c

A slave who works for God

is a Pretty Awesome Position to have
The God and Lord is Jesus Christ

The Greek Interlinear reads...
James, of the God and Lord, Jesus Christ - His servant

2 Peter 1:1
Simon Peter, a **bondservant** and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us
by the righteousness of our **God and Savior - Jesus Christ**:

The Christian “Works” for God in this World

1 John 4:17
Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is,
so are we in this world.

2.) The Proving of the Christian’s Faith vv. 2

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

2a.) Trials are Determined for the Believer vv. 2

My brethren

The Natural, Super-Natural Effects of Being a Christian

Matthew 5:16
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Psalm 76:10a
Surely the wrath of man shall praise You

Every Time the World Gets Angry at Your “Right Living” and Your Witness
- God’s Name is Blessed

The Ungodly will Condemn Our Lives

Matthew 5:10-12

Blessed (Happy) are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
¹¹Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.
¹²Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven,
for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The World Will be Against us!

John 15:18-19

"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

b.) Trials are Designed for the Believer

vv. 2b

Count it all **joy** when you **fall** into **various trials**,

- * Count grk to conclude, to determine, to consider.
To make an accounting
- * Joy grk 5479 chara (khar-ah');
a deep cheerfulness, a calm delight: a gladness rooted in purpose,
a Pure joy

It's a deep stillness of the Soul

~~Not a happiness~~

Verse 2b

When (not if) you fall...

- * Fall grk 4045 periptoto (per-ee-pip'-to);
to fall into something that is all around you, that which surrounds

But Why a Trial?

BECAUSE

1 Peter 1:6-7

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

The Process of Creating a Pearl

The oyster, by being an oyster, living where it does, is bound to get sand in its face. But when it does it swings into action determined to deal with its problem. It does so by patiently covering the problem with what it is made of - arranged in a never-before-seen version of itself. After the struggle is over, a pearl of great price is produced!

The Result is Pure (sincere) Joy in Your Life

Matthew 5:10-12

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹**Blessed** are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹²**Rejoice** and be **exceedingly glad**, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The "Being Attacked" for Your Association with Jesus *this is what is in James' mind here*

Example

Acts 5:39-42

but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it-- lest you even be found to fight against God." ⁴⁰And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. ⁴²And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

Example

Revelation 2:8-10a

8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: 9 "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty... "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation...

Jesus Told Them “Up-Front” When Traveling

If you’re looking for a specific place -- have you noticed that when you are on a certain stretch of highway that you have never driven before it seems so long - too long!

But once you’ve found the location - the future trips seem shorter and shorter until it’s a no brainer

We Know the Way - We Know the Why

2c.) Trials are Diverse for the Believer

vv. 2c

Various trials,

* Various grk 4164 poikilos (poy-kee'-los);
multi-colored, of full range, of varying

The word is found to describe peoples, places,
situations, dangers in plurality

The Diversity of Trials are to Produce Maturity in Our Lives

LOOKING BEYOND

THE EXTERNAL SITUATION

(The tragedy, accident, illness, personal attack, physical attack)
is only the surface effect.

TO A GREATER WORK, AN INVISIBLE WORK

* Trials 3985 peirazo (pi-rad'-zo)
a test that reveals something's quality. to assay as a metal, to
prove its value "genuine"

A TEST THAT BRINGS ABOUT VICTORY

3.) The Development of the Christian's Faith

vv. 3

Knowing that the **testing** of your faith **produces patience.**

3a.) Be Knowledgeable about the Purpose of Trials

vv. 3a

Knowing that the **testing** of your faith

**"Our faith is the issue; trials are tools
and knowing this is the victory"**

The word **testing** means to make "genuine" or
"without alloy". To test to bring out one's
genuineness

GOD DOES NOT SHELTER US FROM TRIALS
HE SHELTERS US THROUGH TRIALS

**Pray / Meditate / Using The Word
i.e. - Romans 8:26**

Proverbs 18:10

The name of the LORD is a strong tower;
the righteous run to it and are safe. (Thru difficult times)

3b.) Looking for the Outcome - Perseverance

vv. 3b

Knowing that the **testing** of your faith
produces patience.

Patience / Perseverance Grk 5281 hupomone (hoop-om-on-ay');
being under a rock or stone. To be in the pressure while having a cheerful and hopeful
endurance, the continuance, the waiting in difficult situations!!!

The Three Hebrews in the fiery furnace of Nebuchadnezzar
they fully trusted in God with their lives
(come life or life)

Don't become Timid

Timidity will rob you blind of ministry joy
and of seeing opportunities

Patience / Perseverance Means

that God will give the ability to **endure** patiently even for long periods of time

Patience / Perseverance Means

implied is that there is a **discipline** that is developed along the way. The Christian determines to
stay in the word, in prayer, fellowship during the trial

Patience / Perseverance Means

a steadfast faithfulness. Not a part-time Christianity, but a continuous living in the presence of
God

4.) The Maturing of the Christian's Faith

vv. 4

But let **patience** have its **perfect** work, that you may be **perfect** and **complete**, lacking nothing.

Verse 4

But let **patience** have its **perfect** work

4a.) Let the Trial take His Course

vv. 4a

* perfect grk 5046 teleios (tel'-i-os);
completeness: to become complete in various ways

Philippians 3:10

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed
to His death,

Remembering I will be More Like Jesus After This Trial

4b.) And Enjoy its Benefits

vv. 4b

That you may be **perfect** and **complete**, -- lacking nothing.

Romans 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

* **complete** grk 3648 holokleros (hol'-ok'-lay-ros);
full, made in ones entirety, absolute wholeness.

1 Peter 4:13-14a

but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

Trials in the life of the (new) believer

why is this happening to me?

when will it stop happening to me?

Trials in the life of an (old) believer

Lord, keep me from failing this one

Lord, use it in the lives of others around me

2 Timothy 1:12

For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

Jude 1:24

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

Psalm 37:23-24

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the LORD upholds him with His hand.

EXAMPLES OF TRIALS

Various Types of Trials

The Heart Wrencher

Hebrews 11:17-19

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," ¹⁹concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

The Mind Bender

Joshua 6:1-2

Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. ²And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.

The Gut Grinder

1 Samuel 17:48-51

So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that **David hurried and ran toward** the army to meet the Philistine. ⁴⁹Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth. ⁵⁰So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. But there was no sword in the hand of David. ⁵¹**Therefore David ran** and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

Faith Runs Toward the Opposition

From David's vantage Point God could be easily seen -
he ran because he knew how little Goliath was

The Hall of Faith

Hebrews 11:32-38

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises,

stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented-- of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

1.) The Trials of the Christian's Faith **vv. 1**

2.) The Proving of the Christian's Faith **vv. 2**

3.) The Development of the Christian's Faith **vv. 3**

4.) The Maturing of the Christian's Faith **vv. 4**

...To Be Continued