

JAMES

James 1:2-8

Theme:



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

- **What are Trials?** _____
- As Jesus was “tested” in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1–13), so believers are tested.
- **What is Faith?** - _____ (Hebrews 11:6)
- **What is Joy?** - _____
- Worldly happiness is temporary, Joy from God is eternal.

Where does joy come from?

- 1) _____ (Galatians 5:22)
- 2) _____ (Romans 14:17)
- 3) _____ (Luke 6:22-23)
- 4) _____ (James 1:2-4)

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.

- **What is Steadfastness?** - _____
- Steadfastness leads to stronger faith and maturity in Christ.
- _____ (testing of your faith) = _____ (relentless endurance) = _____ (maturity in Christ)
- Believers are to grow in holiness (Sanctification). (Galatians 2:20)
- Sanctification - to make holy or Christ like. (Matthew 5:48)
- Our sanctification will be complete upon meeting Jesus'. (John 17:17) (Hebrews 13:12)
- God commands us to be holy through the power of the Holy Spirit. (1 Peter 1:15-16)

- 1) Our goal in trials _____ getting back to what feels normal or comfortable.
- 2) Our goal in trials _____ to grow in Christ likeness. “mature and complete like Him”
- 3) Trials are meant to build and grow your faith.
- 5) Trials are joyful when glorifying God is our goal.
- 4) Learn to trust and rely on the resources only God can provide with your new steadfast faith.

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach (disapproval), and it will be given him.

- Our wisdom is limited, God has _____ wisdom. (Romans 11:33) (Isaiah 43:13) (Matthew 19:26)
- Wisdom comes from the Lord. (Psalm 111:10) (Proverbs 9:10)

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.

- James is commanding us to put our new _____ into action. (Ask God for wisdom in trials.)
- Knowing the character of God, trust in Him, not the _____ or _____.
- When we doubt God we dishonour Him.

JAMES

James 1:9-11, 16-18

Theme:

9 Let the lowly(_____) brother(_____) boast in his exaltation(_____),

- James strongly encourages the poor to boast in their high status in Christ.
 - Your _____ does not determine your _____. (Genesis 1:27)
 - See yourself the way _____ sees you.
 - You are _____, made in the image of _____ bought with the priceless _____.
- The lowly should take hope in the unimaginable glory to come.
 - The lowly brother will be exalted or vindicated by God. (Revelation 22:12)

10 and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away.

- James strongly encourages the rich to boast in their humiliation in two ways.
 - 1) by realizing that their wealth is temporary and that it brings them no advantage before God
 - 2) by identifying with the poor in their affliction.
- The church is to be a “counter cultural” community, which reverses the values of the world.
- Poverty and riches bring enormous pressure on a person.
- The humble will be exalted, and the exalted will be humbled.

11 For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

- Wealth, power and possessions will all pass away, all that will remain is the Kingdom of God.
(1 John 2:17) (Isaiah 40:8) (Matthew 24:35)
- Always live with _____ in mind.
- We will stand before God to give an account of what we have done with the life He has given us.
(2 Corinthians 5:10)

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.

- Christians can still be _____. (Mark 13:5)
- “Beloved brothers” - _____.

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

- God is _____. (James 1:17)
- We are _____. (Ephesians 4:13-14)
- God is _____. (1 John 1:5)
- We are conceived into _____. (Romans 5:12)
- God is _____. (Matthew 5:48)
- We are _____. (Romans 3:23)
- Every good gift we have is given by grace from God.

18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

- The greatest gift from above is _____.
- People are a good gift.
- God sees us (Christians) as His first fruits.
- God _____ you to _____ Him.

JAMES

James 1:12-15

Theme:



The original greek word (peirazō) means to test, to try which was its usual meaning in the ancient Greek. The word means either _____ or _____. Context alone determines which sense is intended, or if both apply simultaneously.

- Phonetic Spelling: pi-rad'-zo
- Peirazō - "tempt" (negative sense) in: (Matthew 4:1-11) (James 1:13-14)
- Peirazō - "trial" (positive sense) in: (Luke 22:28) (James 1:2, 1:12)

Q: What are trials? _____

- God allows trials in order to strengthen the Christian's faith. {Hebrews 2:10}

Q: What are temptations? _____

- Temptation is _____ sin, it is the _____ to sin.
- Temptation will come when you are at your weakest physically, mentally and spiritually.
- Temptation will come when you are isolated (alone).

Jesus was tempted {Matthew 4:1-11}

- Jesus remained _____ during His temptation.
- Jesus over came temptation with the strength of _____ and _____.

12 Blessed is the man who remains *steadfast under trial*, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

- What does it mean to be "steadfast under trials"?

- The reward for faithful perseverance is _____ (the crown of life), with all its blessings.

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

- God is sinless. {2 Corinthians 5:21} (1 John 3:5) (Luke 1:35)
- Sin is direct opposition of God's _____ and _____.
- God never creates, tempts or lures anyone to sin.
- We are never to blame God for our sin.

14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

- Temptations will always be something our _____ already desires.

15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

- _____ → _____ → _____ → _____
- Sin turns life into death. {Romans 6:23} {Romans 5:12}
- Jesus died for sin, so put your sin to death. (1 Peter 3:18) (Galatians 5:24)
- The key to blessing and the "crown of life" is to grown in steadfast _____ in _____ and to rely on God and fight every _____, so that God will receive _____ in your life.

JAMES

James 1:19-27

Theme:

- » Obedience is the hallmark of a true child of God.
- » Jesus said “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” (John 14:15)

19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger;

- » God gave King Solomon supernatural wisdom to lead the Israelites. (1 Kings 3)
- » James echoes King Solomon on the misuse of the tongue and the anger that can result.

- **Quick to hear:** God’s Word is _____. (Psalms 119:105) (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - Wisdom comes from God. (Proverbs 2:6) (James 3:17)
- **Slow to speak:** The _____ is a power tool. (Proverbs 18:21)
 - The wise guard their speech. (Proverbs 10:19; 11:12; 15:1; 17:28)
- **Slow to anger:** Anger is _____ sin, but can _____ to sin (Ephesians 4:26).
 - God is slow to anger. (Psalm 103:8-12) (Exodus 34:6)

20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. v21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

- “the anger of man” - Natural human anger is _____ and _____, not righteous.
- Strip off the natural desire to sin and put on the righteousness of God.

Q: What is Meekness? _____

Q: Why is the implanted word able to save your souls. _____

- God’s Word and love brings forth fruit in our lives and leads us to eternal life with Him.

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

- We are saved by _____ and not by _____. (Ephesians 2:8)
- We do not work _____ the love of God, we work _____ the love of God.
- The Word of God _____ our Christ like actions.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. v24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

- Looking close at your “natural face” (imperfection) in a mirror and then forgetting what you look like demonstrates the foolishness of examining your heart in God’s “mirror” the word, and then doing nothing about it.

25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

Q: What is the “perfect law”? _____

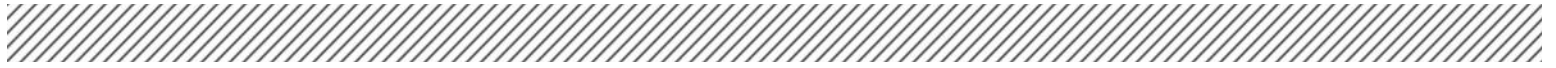
Q: What is the “law of liberty”? God’s word is _____ that sets us _____ from _____ and _____.

- Jesus is the word made _____ (John 1:14). The _____ the _____ and the _____ (John 14:6).
- There are blessings in acting out The Word of God.

Q: Name some blessings in acting out the word.

- Assurance of Forgiveness (1John 1:9)
- Assurance of Salvation (1John 5:11)
- Assurance of Guidance (Proverbs 3:5)
- Assurance of Victory (1Corninthians 10:13)

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26 If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

- Our faith will always transform the way we listen, speak, act, react and LIVE. (James 2:14-26)
- If our faith doesn't change the way we live it isn't real faith.

27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

- Pure faith is to _____, _____ and _____ the _____ and _____ in their suffering, being lead by the _____ in truth to be like _____. (Matthew 22:39)