

28 Jan.



Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: James – week 1



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member who James the Just, and half-brother of Jesus was who wrote the book of James?
2. What does James call himself in James 1:1? **(A servant of God...)**.
3. What does James call Jesus in v.1? **(Lord Jesus Christ...)**.
4. What important point is James making in v.1? **(God is Lord over our trials.)**.
5. How should we respond to trials and difficult situations according to v.2? **(Count it all joy...)**.



Let's go deeper

6. What does trials and the testing of our faith produce according to v.3? **(It produces endurance, steadfastness, and consistency.)**.
7. How does v.4 encourage us to walk through our trials? **(...so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.)**.
8. What does v.5 tell us to do if we do not know what to do in difficult situations? **(If any of you lack wisdom, he should ask God...)**.
9. How should we ask according to v.6? **(But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt.)**.



Let's apply this

10. James 1:5 – 6; If any of you **lacks wisdom**, let him **ask God**, who gives generously to all without reproach, and **it will be given him**. 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.

When trials come to you, it will be new, you will not know what to do, and James says you need God to take your hand like a child and walk you through the valley of the shadow of death (trial, or difficulty). This requires wisdom.

- Pray and ask the Holy Spirit (Spirit of wisdom) to give you His wisdom
- Read and study God's Word daily for God's wisdom in your situation.
- Ask godly friends for their wise counsel.

SUMMARY:

James: Week 1

Read: James 1:1 – 8

James, was respected for the advice he gave and for the wise decisions he helped the community of believers with. At one point he decided to write some of his best teachings and advice and send them to other Jewish believers who were scattered throughout the Roman Empire. What he wrote to them has become known as the book of James. This book is a collection of short teachings on practical topics.

v.1; James the Just, was the half-brother of Jesus (See Matt.13:55); and brother of Jude (Jude 1:1); and later became the leader of the Jerusalem church (See Acts 15:13); and pillar of the early church (see Galatians 2:9). He writes to those who are dispersed. **Amplified** says, to the 12 Hebrew tribes scattered abroad among the gentiles. These are largely Jewish believers. James tells us who God is; God is the Lord Jesus Christ. The first thing he tells us is that **God is over our trial**.

v.2 – 3; The word trials can be translated trouble, or difficulty as we experience trials, trouble, and difficult situations it can cause anxiety, worry, confusion; "I have never dealt with this before, I am scared, worried or in danger." Some English translations translate this word trials as temptations. Something happens and you will decide whether it is a trial or a temptation based upon your response. If you obey satan, you will turn it into a temptation. You will excuse sin. You will rebel against God. You will give in to that thing, which is tempting to you. If you obey the Holy Spirit when that trial comes, it will be a test for you to pass. Every person deals with trials it can be financial, spiritual, emotional, mental, or relational.

What do trials do?

- They strip away other objects of faith that we are trusting in other than God.
- Trials reveal our true selves; pressure reveals our true selves and we are shocked.
- Trials reveal not just who you are, but who others are. Sometimes in difficult seasons people that you think are your best friends just walk away from you.
- Trials simplify life and reveals who and what really matters.

How do I rejoice in trials?

- Remind yourself that Jesus has been through the same trial, and He understands.
- Trials can grow you in character to become more Christ-like.
- Once you pass your trial / test you will do ministry more meaningful. You will be able to help and minister to others who are going through the same trial you did.
- Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Focus on others.

v.4 – 8; There is a God over your trial, He will give you joy in your trial, and wisdom through your trial. You are going to need God to take your hand like a child and walk you through your trial. Wisdom comes from the Holy Spirit and God's Word. Wisdom come from prayer, asking God, and wisdom comes through wise counsel.