

# James – The Marks of a Mature Believer

## How is the Believer to Respond to Trials? (James 1:1-12)

The Introduction (1:1)

- **The Author** (1:1a) – “James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ”

 *Who is James?* (Mark 6:3-4; John 7:1-5; Acts 11:14; 1 Cor. 15:3-7)

- **The Audience** (1:1b) – “To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.”

### A. The Appropriate Response to Trials from Without (1:2-8)

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ – A Deliberate Settled Conviction (1:2)

 James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

 **Count:** *to lead before the mind; evaluate. A deliberate and careful thought process whereby one comes to a settled conclusion after weighing all the facts.* (Phil 3:7-8; Heb 11:11,26)

*What is Joy?*

 **Joy:** *calm delight; a mental attitude that is derived from a settled conviction that everything is designed by God to bring about the believer’s spiritual maturity.*

 Three simple facts about Trials are revealed in James 1:2 –

- Trials are \_\_\_\_\_ “when”
- Trials are \_\_\_\_\_ “you fall”
- Trials are \_\_\_\_\_ “into various trials”

*Is joy the mental attitude I embrace when I fall into a trial?*

*How can I gain a right perspective when I come face to face with a trial in my life?*

#### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ – A Determined Sought Out Understanding (1:3)

 James 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

 **Produces:** *to work out fully and thoroughly; to accomplish or achieve an end.*

Positively  
(Rom 5:3; 2 Cor. 4:17; 2 Cor. 5:5)

Negatively  
(Rom 4:15; 7:8; James 1:20)

 **Patience:** *cheerful/hopeful endurance. It is that temperament of spirit which remains under a trial in a God-honoring way, in order to learn the lesson it is sent to teach, rather than attempting to get out from under the trial in an effort to be relieved of its pressure.*

 Trials are Designed to:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ – **A Dependent Submissive Will** (1:4)

 James 1:4 But let patience have *its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*

 **Perfect:** *to bring to the intended goal. To bring something or someone to the place where its designer intended.*

4. \_\_\_\_\_ – **A Deepened Spiritual Relationship** (1:5)

 James 1:5 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.

*What is Wisdom, and how does it differ from knowledge?*

 **Wisdom:** *skillful living; the skill of applying truth to everyday situations.*

 *How can this principle be applied to you?*

I must recognize \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 5a)

I must recognize \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 5b)

a. **The Condition for Obtaining Wisdom** (1:6a) – \_\_\_\_\_

 Jas 1:6a But let him ask in faith, with no doubting

b. **The Consequences for Lack of Faith** (1:6b-8) – \_\_\_\_\_

 Jas 1:6b-8 ...for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. (7) For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; (8) He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

**B. The Appropriate Evaluation of Trials** (1:9-10)

 Jas 1:9-11 Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, (10) but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. (11) For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.

The Poor Man (Col. 3:1-3)

The Rich Man (Jer. 9:23-24)

*How will you evaluate the situation when you face a trial in your life?*

**C. The Appropriate Reward of Trials** (1:12)

 Jas 1:12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.