

## Bible Study Lesson One James 1:1—17

**AUTHOR:** James the half brother of Jesus is the likely author of the Book of James. The author of the epistle furnishes no other identification than the information presented in the opening verse. **James 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to God's faithful people who have been scattered. Greetings**

**THEME: Practical Religion** The central theme of the epistle is practical, realistic religion which manifests itself in the behavior or the "works" of those who profess to have faith.

**Cultivating to develop and improve faith and works growth cultivating like the growth of a plant or a crop after it is cultivated by labor and attention. Figurative sense of "improve by training and education"**



**Cultivating your faith and works by rolled up sleeves of your Christian life**



### **I. Genuine...REAL...Christianity**

#### **A. How to learn Patience in Trials and Temptation**

##### **I. A Proper Attitude toward Trials**

**James 1:2 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.**

##### **A. What are trials?**

- 1. The term is used to speak of afflictions and diversities that we encounter in life.**
- 2. These trials are of various kinds. It could be illness, financial reverses, problems at work, persecution for our faith, etc. They come in all shapes and sizes.**

## **B. Our attitude toward trials.**

- 1. Consider or Count it pure joy....Count is a bookkeeping word**
- 2. It seems quite unnatural for our attitude toward trials to be pure joy.**
- 3. It is finding joy in what the trouble produces. It is enjoying the sweet fruit produced only by bitter time**

## **II. The Powerful Outcome of Trials**

**James 1:3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow**

### **A. Consider or Count it all joy...because you know...**

- 1. We know that the testing of our faith produces perseverance.**
  - a. Testing of your faith. Trials test faith.**
    - 1) Not a test to find if faith is there.**
    - 2) A test to strengthen faith 1 Pet. 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.**

**The process of refining gold is put into the flames to burn off the impurities and strengthen the quality of the gold. God does not test us to destroy us but to purify us.**



## **III. The Perseverance produces maturity.**

**James 1:4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing..**

- 1. The Greek term is speaks of something that has reached its intended end.**
- 2. This maturity is further described as “not lacking anything. The Gk. term speaks of a thing which has all its necessary parts.**
- 3. A process is implied here. Trials =Perseverance = Maturity. This is not automatic. It takes time.**

Every person here today can think of a trial which he or she has gone through. If I asked you, “Would you like to go through that again?” You would undoubtedly say, “No way.” But if I asked you, “Are you grateful for what that difficulty accomplished in your life?” Many of you would say we consider it all joy because we know that when tough times come, the end result is going to be perseverance and maturity. The mature Christian life is the sweet fruit of bitter times.

**A Billy Graham said, “Mountaintops are for Views and inspiration, but fruit is grown in the valleys.”**



Illustration...POTATO, EGG, and COFFEE? They all change in hot water the potato becomes soft...the egg become hard...the coffee changes the color of the water. Trials are meant to change us into image of Jesus!



#### **IV. Learning to Ask - A Heart that Wants to Believe**

James 1:5-8 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. 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. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

When the unexpected trials of life land on our doorstep, How are we to respond? How are to pray — what should we ask God for? James gives the answer, Prayer for WISDOM... Pray in FAITH

Webster defines Wisdom as “the ability to make right use of knowledge.”

**The lack of faith in God's goodness and promises is also recognized as sin. The doubter is tempted to fall back on human experience that denies God and His power. Human wisdom based on experience is not sufficient to meet life's storms. Believers trust God to provide the needed wisdom.**

**Why do we need wisdom when we are going through our trials? . We need wisdom so we will not waste the opportunities God is giving us to mature. Wisdom helps us to use these circumstances for our good and God's glory. Don't waste the opportunities God gives you to prove Himself. James will bring up the subject of wisdom later in our study...**

#### **VI. The Allow or Let of Surrender...Our Will to God and His Word**

**James 1:9-16 Believers who are poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them. And those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them. They will fade away like a little flower in the field. The hot sun rises and the grass withers; the little flower droops and falls, and its beauty fades away.**

**In the same way, the rich will fade away with all of their achievements. God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters.**

**God's goal for our lives is maturity. It would be tragic if our little children remained little babies. We enjoy watching them grow through the various stages of life. Same is true of God he wants us to grow**

**God's testing has a way of leveling us all. It is not our material resources that are going to get us through the trials of life, but our spiritual resources. It is as natural as life itself.**

**God does not tempt us to do evil. While evil can be traced to human desire, only good can come from God.**

**What must we do when tempted? What can we do?**

- 1- When tempted - don't blame God**
- 2- When tempted - do blame yourself**
- 3- When tempted - do look up**

God cannot and will not build our character without our cooperation...  
Watch this video of Mom with child Giraffe

[The first steps of a baby Giraffe](#) – click link to see video

### **Conclusion**

James 1:17—19 Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. **And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.**

Someone said: “To realize God’s presence is the one sovereign remedy against temptation.”

We not only look up and recognize that God has given us every good and perfect gift but we also look up and realize He is the way out of temptation to sin!

**We are His PRIZED POSSESSION**