



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

JAMES 1:1-11

LESSON: ENDURING TRIALS IN WISDOM—November 15, 2023

INTRODUCTION:

This James is the Lord's brother and the author of this Book. He was an eyewitness of the risen Lord Jesus, and after the resurrection, James came to the faith in Christ and became a trusted leader among the Jewish believers. He became pastor and or leading elder of the great Jerusalem Church identifying himself by humble submission with the teachings of Jesus.

LESSON:

I. JAMES 1:1-4

1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting. James opens up in his letter with a greeting by expounding who he is: he is a servant of God; who he represent: the Lord Jesus Christ; who this is for: the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad. The word *'servant'* (doulos) in Greek means far more than just a servant. It means a slave, totally possessed by the master. It means a bond-servant bound by law to a master.

- Are we owned by our Master? • Are we existing for no other reason than for our Master?
- Are we ready to serve our Master? • Is our Will none other than the Father's Will?
- Do we have the highest, most honored, and kingly profession of our Master?

It's James' humbling position that stands out here. John 12:26 says *"If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am there shall also my servant be: If any man serve me, him will my Father honour."*

James had lived as a brother with Jesus for years: played, ate, slept, and worked together. It was after the Resurrection that James accepted this glorious truth—Jesus was the Savior of the world. He is the very Son of God who is equal to God the Father. He is saying that his brother Jesus, the carpenter from Nazareth is the very nature, essence, and character of God. Now, this was a time when the twelve tribes had been scattered all over the world, and had lost their identity, and James is writing to all twelve tribes as a whole.

1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations. James doesn't say how rough life is, but he tells them to *"count it all joy"* when falling into those many trials and temptations. *"Count it all joy"* in a sickness and disease; accidents and disappointments; sorrows and sufferings. And rest assured we will have many. God will allow temptations. **Why?** - To make us strong in faith. We can't walk around having weak faith when we have a big God! As verse 13 says God does not tempt us. The world, the flesh, and the devil will tempt.

- When we conquer temptation, we become a much better person.
- When we triumphantly go through the trial, we become much stronger people.
- When we stand up against trials and temptations, we become a dynamic witness to all those who see us.

God allows temptations before us for a purpose, for it will be impactful for us. We're always demonstrating God's power. The next verse tells us why.

1:3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. So, the attitude we start out with in verse 2 is to count it all joy! Then, (a) we must **know something.** Know that trials and temptations





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work patience. The trials and temptations are not to defeat and discourage you, but to prove us, make us much stronger, not weaker, and to have a righteous character like Jesus. (b) However, our **faith has to be tried** (acted upon), and when it is, **it's working patience in us.** "**Patience**" means to be steadfast, to persevere, and to endure. So, let patience work within you. **Why?** Because 1 Corinthians 10:13 says *"There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."* Because Hebrews 2:18 says *"For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor (help) them that are tempted."* With God's help, we go through to come out victoriously

1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Patience continues to mature us and in the finished work we lack nothing. Now, patience has perfected its purpose in you. Then...

1. A person stands against trials and temptations and conquers them.
 - a. To become more and more like Jesus.
 - b. To do a specific task or job while here on earth.
2. A person becomes more and more complete in all parts.
 - a. Entire and wanting nothing.
 - b. Eliminating more and more shortcomings and weaknesses.

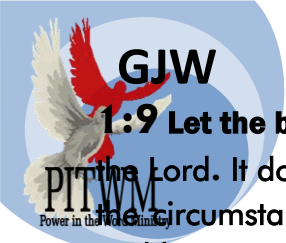
II. JAMES 1:5-11

1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him. James writes, that if you need wisdom, understanding, insight, then ask God! We all have knowledge, which are facts about a thing because we read, we research, we go to school, but do we know how to use the knowledge we've acquired. This requires God's help. He's able to give His wisdom to all men freely, not reprimanding (scold) any, but ready to give the wisdom needed freely. In this lesson we're talking about trials and temptations that come out of nowhere that only God has prepared a way of escape. And God's Wisdom is the right plan to bring us through. Therefore, when we ask God, the Creator in prayer, He is willing to give His Wisdom.

1:6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. All that's required is that we ask in faith, not wavering, and not tossed to and fro like the waves of the sea, by the wind that moves it, but really expecting what you ask for. We cannot doubt God's answer. God does not reward doubt nor anyone wavering! No, wisdom gives the answer, and faith is required!

1:7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. Just because you've asked, you can't even think that you're not going to receive something of the Lord. **Why?** – Because you're wavering (going back and forth; up and down) will take you under, causing you not believe God.

1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. "*Doubled-minded*" means having a wavering mind; divided loyalties, and is unstable (unbalanced and unfixed) in all his ways because he wavers in his faith. He is like a person with two minds—he's not sure; he's uncertain; he feels yes, and then he feels no. He begins and then backs up, and then begins again. He believes, then disbelieves. He acts, then distrusts, and backs up again. He's unstable in his prayer life with God.



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1:9 Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted. The lowly brother is called to rejoice in the Lord. It doesn't mean he is to rejoice because he is poor or unhealthy or cripple, but rejoice despite the circumstances because no matter how terrible the circumstances may be, Christ loves the lowly, and has promised to exalt him. Luke 14:11 says ***"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."*** Truly humble people do not get that way by trying to be humble, they are humble because of their relationship with God. And true exaltation only comes from God.

1:10 But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away. Sometimes trials bring us low, and sometimes doing unlawful things bring us low. However, while the lowly are exalted, the rich are made low. **Why?** – Because the status that the rich once had will soon pass away. That is the danger of false security. The flower flourished for awhile, but the flower of the grass soon passes; fades away like the rich. This means that the rich and high have to approach God bare—as nothing and having nothing—approach Him like a little child, poor and without anything. You have to come low to accept Jesus.

1:11 For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof fadeth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways. The sun rises with burning heat and withers the grass and flower that was once flourishing and causes them to perish. This is the same with the rich and high—the body of the rich ages and dies. You can't take it with you, therefore, all men, no matter the status, stands before God as equals.

SUMMARY:

James opens up in his letter with a greeting by expounding who he is; he is a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, and it's to the twelve scattered tribes all over the world of the Christian faith, calling them *"my brothers"* for they had lost their identity. And James comes right out and say, *"Count it all joy when falling into those many temptations"*, **Why?** Because the trying of your faith works out patience; their patience will have her mature and finished work, causing them to lack nothing. These encouraging words were to lift them up while in the trials and temptations (**1:1-4**).

He writes, if they need wisdom, understanding, insight, then ask God, for He's able to give it to all men freely, not reprimanding; (not rebuking or chastising) any, but ready to give the wisdom needed. All that's needed is that you ask in faith, not wavering, tossed to and fro like the waves of the sea by the wind that moves it, but really expecting what you ask for. But when we look at a doubled-minded man, he is unstable (unbalanced and unfixed) in all his ways. **Why?** Because he wavers in his faith. He believes, then disbelieves. James addresses the believers' spiritual status, and encourages the brother of low degree to rejoice in his exalted position in Christ. Jesus *"though He was rich, yet for your sake became poor."* Sometimes trials bring us low, and sometimes doing unlawful things bring us low. However, the lowly are exalted, while the rich are made low, because the status that the rich once had will soon pass away. That is the danger of false security. The sun rises, and the hot winds dry the wild flowers. They fall and die, and lose their beauty. Similarly, while the rich man is busy, he will fall and die like a wild flower. (**1:5 -11**)