



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

JAMES 1:1-8, 12-18

LESSON: BLESSINGS AMID TRIALS— February 5, 2023

INTRODUCTION:

This James is probably the Lord's brother and probably the author of this Book. He was an eyewitness of the risen Lord Jesus. He became pastor of the great Jerusalem Church and familiar with the teachings of Jesus.

LESSON: I. PRAYING FOR WISDOM JAMES 1:1-8

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 by expounding **who he is:** he is a servant of God; **who he represent:** God and the Lord Jesus Christ; and **who is this for:** the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, in his greeting. 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, but had not believed that Jesus was the Messiah until after the Resurrection that he accepted this glorious truth—Jesus being the Savior of the world; 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.

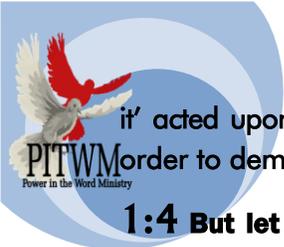
1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations. James doesn't say how rough life is, but he tells them to "count it all joy" when falling into those many trials and temptations. It's not if, but a fact of when with purpose that they will. "Count it all joy" in a sickness and disease, accidents and disappoints, sorrows and sufferings. Rest assured we will have many. God will allow temptations, but He's not the one tempting us. The world, the flesh, and the devil will tempt. Why temptations? - To make us strong to resist. We have to know right from wrong! And know that we have an enemy! Faith has to grow! We can't walk around being immature when we have the Holy Spirit in us! And a big God!

- When we conquer temptation, we become a much better person.
- When we triumphantly go through the trial, we become a much stronger person.
- 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. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" Romans 8:28. And 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." We will not go under with this temptation, because God has a way of escape! Hebrews 2:18 says "For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor (help in need) them that are tempted."

1:3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. So, the attitude we start with is "Joy!" Then, (a) we must know something. Know that trials and temptations are working patience. The trials and temptations are not to defeat and discourage you, but to prove us, make us much stronger, not weaker, having a righteous character like Jesus. Then, (b) we must do something. Faith has to be tried (acted upon), and when





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it' acted upon, it works patience in us. "*Patience*" means to be steadfast, to persevere, and to endure. Why? In order to demonstrate God's power, we have to know that God is working patience in through our faith!

1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. So, let patience work within you. Patience continues to mature and the finished work causing a person to lack nothing. Now, you're able to see yourself do this:

1. Stands against trials and temptations and conquers them.
 - a. You're becoming more and more like Jesus.
 - b. You're able to do a specific task or job while in the midst of a temptation.
2. You're mature and complete wanting nothing.
 - a. Eliminating more and more shortcomings and weaknesses.

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, if they 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 wisely? 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. His wisdom is the right plan to bring us through. Therefore when we ask God, the Creator in prayer, He is willing to give it.

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 we are to really expect what we 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, but wavered you shouldn't expect to receive something of the Lord. Why? – Because you wavered (going back and forth; up and down), which causes 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 is 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. He's unstable in his prayer life with God.

NOT APART OF THE LESSON

1:9 Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted. The lowly brother should rejoice in the Lord. It doesn't mean he is to rejoice because he is poor or unhealthy or crippled, but rejoice despite the circumstances because no matter how terrible they may be, Christ loves the lowly and has promised to exalt him as a King throughout all eternity.

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. And the rich is made low, while the lowly is exalted. Why? – Because the status that the rich once had will soon pass away. There is the danger of false security. The flower flourished for awhile, but 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, humble and childlike manner. You have to come wanting 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,





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all men, no matter the status stands before God as equal.

BACK TO THE LESSON: II. PERSEVERING IN TRIAL JAMES 1:12-15

1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. In a trial James says *"blessed is the man that endureth temptation."* Why? - He will receive the "crown of life" for it is promised to them that love God. Without the love of God in the believer's heart ,trials can cause you to become bitter or critical ,and lose the Crown of Life. This is the reward for enduring. You didn't run the race running too fast or running too slow, but you kept up with God and endured the challenges. The word *"blessed"* means inward and spiritual joy and satisfaction; an inner assurance and confidence that carries one through all the trials and temptations of life no matter the pain, sorrow, loss, or grief. His confidence and joy should be in knowing that God is in full control taking care of him.

1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:— Our temptations do not come from God. *"Temptation"* is our desire and craving for wrong things that God forbids, and that are harmful to our human bodies and spirits. We are always blaming someone else for leading us into sin, trying to escape the guilt:

- Man blames woman; woman blames man.
- Spouse blames spouse.
- Child blames parent; parent blames child.
- Student blames teacher; teacher blames the school.
- Employer blames employee; employee blames employer.

It's a vicious circle the devil uses. In Matthew 4:3 he even tried to tempt the Son of God. So, God is never the source of temptation. He will test you. He tested Abraham to sacrifice his Promised son. It's not within God to tempt because it says **He cannot**. No man can tempt God with evil. God is saying, *"evil tempts!"*

1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. But James does tell us that *"...every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed."* Three steps:

1. There is lust and enticement which is the lure and bait tactic; you pay attention to and you think about temptation. Overcoming temptation is twofold;

- If the temptation attacks our thoughts, then push the wrong thought out by immediately calling on the Name of Jesus—quote the Word, pray until it leaves.
- If the temptation comes from some attraction to our senses, then turn your head and body away, and flee from the temptation and rebuking the enemy's thoughts. *"I will lift up my eyes unto the hills from which cometh my help. My help comes from the Lord which made Heaven and earth..."*

Story → A Sunday School child explained the matter in simple terms. *"Two men live in my heart: the old man Adam and Jesus. When temptation knocks at the door, somebody has to answer. If I let Adam answer, I will sin, so I send Jesus to answer, He always wins!"*

1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin, and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Evil thoughts lead to evil actions and afterwards death.

2. There is the conception of the lust which is the birth of sin – you begin to picture it in your mind with pleasure and therefore, it is done. Sin is conceived and birthed in the mind, therefore, the heart is set.
3. There is the result of lust and enticement which leads to death.

Temptations lead people into darkness of guilt and shame of personal disappointment and accusation, of hurting and damaging others, of destruction and death, of secrecy and hidden affairs, of night and closed doors, of hidden and secret acts.

III. PERFECT GIFTS FROM ABOVE JAMES 1:16-18

1:16 Do not err, my beloved brethren. James says do not err; don't be deceived; do not make the mistake of blaming God. God does his part and we are to do our part!

1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. God is the perfect Gift Giver. He gives only good gifts.





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"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above..." He is the Father; the Creator of lights and He is unchangeable. God the Creator of the sun moon and stars which by their very nature each gives off and reflects its light because of the Creator. They move in rotation; change from day to night; and vary in intensity and shadow. God is the perfect Light that stands alone needing not to change His character.

1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

With His own Will, He brought us forth by the Word of Truth. This is an active expression of God's Will. God's Will only to see us born again. His Will is for us to know the Word of Truth. If we ever hear a word of error, it is not of God. Run fast from it! It is of some other source, some error that comes to tempt man away from God and His truth. God brings sinners to Christ through His Word. Christians are the evidence of God's new creation; that is, a kind of His firstfruits of His creatures. The OT Jews brought the first fruits to the Lord as the expression of their devotion and obedience. Of all the creatures in the universe, Christians are the highest and finest. A higher birth must mean a higher life! As we feed upon His Word we become part of His firstfruits giving devotion to Him only.

SUMMARY:

James opens up by expounding who he is; he is a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ with a greeting to the scattered Christians calling them brothers. This was a time when the twelve tribes had been scattered all over the world and had lost their identity and James is referring to all tribes. This short discussion centers on having God's Wisdom and persevering in trials/ temptations knowing that God's Perfect Gift comes from Above. James tells them to count it all joy when falling into those many temptations, Why?- Because the trying of their faith works out patience; their patience will have her mature and finished work causing them to lack nothing. He writes, if they need wisdom; understanding; insight, then ask God, for He's able to give it to all men freely, not reprimanding 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, cause a doubled-minded man is unstable (unbalanced and unfixed) in all his ways, because he wavers in his faith. He believes, then disbelieves (**1:1-8**).

But *"blessed is the man that endureth temptation."* Why? - He will receive the *"crown of life"* for it is promised to the one who loves God. This is the reward for enduring. You didn't run the race running too fast or running too slow, but you kept up with God, and endured the challenge. The word blessed "means inward and spiritual joy and satisfaction; an inner assurance and confidence that carries one through all the trials and temptations of life, no matter the pain, sorrow, loss, or grief. Our confidence and joy should be in knowing that God is in full control taking care of us. Our temptations do not come from God. Temptation is our desires and craving of the flesh for wrong things that God forbids and that are harmful to our human bodies and spirits. We are always blaming someone else for leading us into sin, trying to escape the guilt. God is not the tempter; it says **He cannot**; it's not within Him to do so because of the great love He has for us. And no man can tempt Him with evil! Therefore, where does temptation come from? Well as we can see in verse 14—*"But every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed."* (**1:12-15**)

James says do not err; don't be deceived; do not make the mistake of blaming God. God is the perfect Gift Giver. He gives only good gifts. *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above..."* God is the Father of lights and He is unchangeable. God is the perfect Light that stands alone needing not to change His character. With His own Will, He brought us forth by the Word of Truth. This is an active expression of God's Will! God's Will is only to see us born again. His Will is for us to know the Word of Truth. If we ever hear the word of error, it is not of God. God brings sinners to Christ through His Word. Christians are the evidence of God's new creation; that is, a kind of His firstfruits of His creatures. The OT Jews brought the first fruits to the Lord as the expression of their devotion and obedience. Of all the creatures in the universe, Christians are the highest and finest. A higher birth must mean a higher life! As we feed upon His Word, we become part of His firstfruits giving devotion to Him only (**1:16-18**).