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**The Book of James has been called by many the New Testament "Book of Proverbs".**

It is not written to a single church or group of churches in a city or region, but to the scattered Jewish believers, or as James wrote, "to the 12 tribes which are scattered abroad"; to Christians who were dispersed, (in all probability) because of being persecuted.

This scattering of Jewish believers from Jerusalem wasn't long after Pentecost, God used a great persecution to scatter His church and the apostles from Jerusalem.

By scattering His church, God broadcast the good seed of the gospel everywhere and to all people. Acts 8:1-4, 11:19-21, 1 Peter 1:1

Who was THIS James, the author of the epistle? There are different opinions, we know it wasn't James, the son of Zebedee, he was killed by Herod: Acts 12:2. This I believe to be James the son of Alphaeus, or James the less, Mark 15:40, called the brother of the Lord, (Galatians 1:19), and brother to Jude. Also, Pastor at the church @ Jerusalem: Acts 15.

**To whom did James write this epistle?**

To professed believers in Christ, mainly Jewish believers, but no doubt also to Gentile believers. It is ridiculous for anyone to teach that this, and other certain books in the Bible are only relevant for Jewish believers.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable."

If James lived in the US, he might be from Missouri, which is the "SHOW ME" state. Why would I say that? Because James didn't want to hear your testimony about your faith in Christ, he wanted to SEE your testimony and faith in Christ in practice.

James 2:18: "Shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

Matthew Poole wrote, "So often, the Christian profession is blemished by unsuitable practice"; James teaches us throughout his letter that our PRACTICE must match our PROFESSION! Your faith, Christian, should be SEEN by your works!

James means to AWAKEN lazy, slothful Christians TO PRACTICE what they profess to believe; TO BE DOERS OF THE WORD and not just hearers!

Hearers of the Word, who don't do the Word are deceiving themselves! Luke 6:46: "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say". 1 John 2:29: "Everyone that doeth righteousness is born of Him", that is born of God!

If you have true faith in Christ, your faith should and must be ALIVE, VISIBLY SEEN and PRACTICED in how you live,

how you speak, and in what you do! Let me SEE your faith, saith James, BY YOUR WORKS!

James 2:17, 26: "Faith, if it hath not works is dead, being alone."

James' epistle is full of imperative commands. One commentator wrote, of the 108 verses in the Book of James, 54 of them contain imperative verbs.

Text: James 1:1-4

**The theme of James' letter, Proofs of true and genuine saving faith in Christ in those that believe. James 1:2-3. Title: True faith will be tried!**

If you profess faith in Christ, YOUR FAITH will be tested by afflictions, adversities, and difficult circumstances which God will bring into your life.

THIS, to discover His faith in you, BUT ALSO TO YOU. Will you submit yourself to God in your trials? Will you trust God through your trial?

KNOW THIS, ANYONE who professes to have faith in Christ, THEIR FAITH will be tested by God, to see what sort it is..... There are MANY who once professed to have true faith in Christ, but their faith failed, because it was not God given faith. This is spurious faith.

Spurious faith is NOT of God, it was not given by God, it is not toward God, and it does not believe God! When tried and tested, it fails.

Mark 4:16-17, Luke 8:13, Hosea 6:4

But if you have true and genuine faith in Christ, you will endure through trials, adversities, and testing! You will continue to believe Christ through every circumstance of your earthly life; you will "actually believe" in Christ MORE, because true faith becomes stronger after it is tried/tested!

The TRIALS of your faith are all designed by God to discover His true faith IN YOU ~ TO YOU, to build you up and strengthen you.

Don't forget, "We walk by faith, not by sight."

**Here is what should be proof #1, when your faith is tested: Count it all joy when trials come!**

Think about the Jewish believers who James was writing to, they were already hated in the world, NOW, they were Christians, so they were doubly hated in the world. Their faith was being tried and tested.

And perhaps they were afraid to show their faith openly for fear of persecution. To this, Jesus said:

"Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you."

But back to being joyful in trials; brethren this is one of the most difficult aspects of our faith to believe and practice! To be joyful, or to be full of joy in the midst of trials is NOT a natural human response! But IT IS the RESPONSE of faith in Christ! And remember this, child of

God, you're no longer a "natural human"; when God saved you, He put His joy in you... the joy of your salvation and joy of the Lord should be your strength!  
JOY and REJOICING SHOULD BE the RESPONSE of your faith "to divers' temptations", to trials, adversities, circumstances that come into your lives that test of your obedience and submission to God. Sometimes all these things will come into your life ALL AT ONCE!

It is an act of faith to "count it all joy" when this happens; and to continue to believe God and submit to Him amid trials. And then, you must never forget that God doesn't intend to hurt you, but to do you good!

Romans 8:28 is often quoted, but rarely embraced and believed. Genesis 42:36, 50:20, 1 Peter 1:3-9, 4:12-13, 2 Corinthians 4:7-12, 6:10. First: Count it all joy!

**Growing Pains! It often hurts when your faith is exercised, put to the test!**

Every time I go to PT, they lay me on this table and bend my arm and shoulder in such ways that really hurt. I really don't like some of the exercises that they give me to do. BUT, after EVERY PT session, AFTER they bend and hurt my shoulder, the day following, it feels better!

God's design in trying your faith is NOT to hurt, ruin, or destroy you, but to build you up and to strengthen you. You MUST never forget; God is on your side; He is WORKING IN YOU both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

REJOICE in that! I go to PT, because I know I need it!

"KNOWING THIS, that the trial of your faith worketh patience."

If God didn't prove and test us, we would have no patience, our faith would not be a hardened, persevering, or an enduring faith. John Calvin wrote: "Christians learn patience in the school of suffering, but the godless are driven (by suffering) ever deeper into madness." Romans 5:1-5

If you hadn't caught on... This word "patience" means to endure and persevere. The trying, testing, or stress that is put on your faith by God, is designed by God to make you stronger in Christ. James 1:12, 5:10-11

Remember when spurious faith or false faith is tried, it fails, but when true and genuine faith is tried, it endures and becomes stronger!

**LET patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." 1 Peter 2:20-21**

Godly patience (endurance/perseverance) is the good effect and design of God when your faith is tested! Don't jump ship, don't run from your trials, don't cower in a corner, and get depressed, LET PATIENCE have her perfect work...

believe God through your trials, "count it all joy", knowing that God is doing His work in you for your good.

Proverbs 24:10

I can't help thinking of that great storm and tempest that Paul was in, in the ship, (Acts 27:13-15). They came to a point when they stopped fighting against the storm and wind and LET HER DRIVE!

When we face the trials of our faith faithlessly and in unbelief, we are NOT "letting patience do her work in our Christian lives", and we are fighting against God doing His good work in us to strengthen our faith in Him.

I love what God told Joshua when he was about to lead Israel into the promised land, after Moses died,

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

**The desired end state of the trying of your faith: You should be perfect and entire, wanting or lacking nothing.**

James describes WHO you should be becoming in Christ with ever passing day! THIS will happen when you LET patience have her perfect work...

ONLY THEN will you become strong in faith, mature in Christ, of full age, lacking nothing spiritually.

Proverbs 4:18: "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

Remember this: God does not test His faith in you to see for Himself if it works. He is testing His faith in you so that YOU WILL SEE it. The trying of your faith is NECESSARY for you, to prove to you the genuineness of it!