

**James 1:4a** “Let perseverance finish its work ....”

**2 Corinthians 12:8** “Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. <sup>[9]</sup> But He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”

**2 Corinthians 12:10** “That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weakness, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

### **C. Seek the Lord in prayer continually.**

**James 1:5** “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”

### **D. Saturate your prayers with gratitude.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:17** “Pray continually. <sup>[18]</sup> Give thanks in all circumstances for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

## **Handling Trials in Our Life!**

**James 1:1-12**

**Lesson #1**

**4/21/24**

### **I. The Book of James is introduced!**

#### **A. James revealed himself as the human author.**

**James 1:1** “James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.”

**Luke 1:31** “You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus.”

**Luke 2:7** “And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

**Matthew 1:25** “But He had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And He gave Him the name Jesus.”

**Mark 6:3** “Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at Him.”

**John 7:5** “For even His own brothers did not believe in Him.”

**1 Corinthians 15:7** “They he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.”

**Acts 1:14** “They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”

#### **B. James referred to himself as a servant of the Lord.**

**James 1:1** “James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.”

#### **C. James relayed information to a scattered Jewish audience.**

**James 1:1b** “... To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.”

## II. The Book of James instructs us in regard to trials!

### A. Trials should be viewed with joy.

**James 1:2** “Consider it pure joy, my brothers,<sup>[a]</sup> whenever you face trials of many kinds.”

**Acts 16:24** “Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in their stocks.”

**Acts 16:25** “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God and the other prisoners were listening to them.”

### B. Trials should be expected during our life.

**James 1:2** “... whenever you face trials

**James 1:2b** “... you face trials of many kinds.”

### C. Trials will vary.

**James 1:2** “...of many kinds.”

### D. Trials are God’s way of testing our faith.

**James 1:3** “Because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.”

**I Peter 1:7** “These have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.”

### E. Trials are used by God to develop maturity.

**James 1:4** “Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

**Romans 5:3** “Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance. <sup>[4]</sup> Perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

### F. Trials are important times to pray.

### 1. Ask God for wisdom.

**James 1:5** “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”

### 2. Believe God will give you wisdom.

**James 1:6** “But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.”

**James 1:7** “That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord.”

**James 1:8** “Such a person is double-minded man, unstable in all he does.”

### G. Trials come to the poor and to the rich.

**James 1:9** “The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position.”

**James 1:10** “But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower.”

**James 1:11** “For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.”

**James 1:12** “Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.”

## How can we apply this lesson to our life?

### A. Don’t be surprised when a trial enters your life.

**Acts 14:22b** “... we must go through many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God.”

**Job 14:1** “Man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.”

### B. Surrender to the Lord’s work as you face the trial.