



James 1:1-8

## True Faith Works on Our Perspective

### Part I: Trials & Wisdom

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- I. True faith works on our perspective on \_\_\_\_\_ (James 1:2-4).
  - A. Trials \_\_\_\_\_ (James 1:2b).
  - B. Trials will come in a \_\_\_\_\_ of ways (James 1:2c).
  - C. Trials, if \_\_\_\_\_ like a \_\_\_\_\_ from God, can produce something \_\_\_\_\_ in us (James 1:3-4).
  - D. Therefore, we must \_\_\_\_\_ our perspective on trials away from our comfort, convenience and security, and instead as a God given \_\_\_\_\_ for Christian \_\_\_\_\_ (James 1:2a).
- II. True faith works on our perspective on \_\_\_\_\_ (James 1:5-8).
  - A. True wisdom comes from \_\_\_\_\_ (James 1:5a).
  - B. True wisdom is \_\_\_\_\_ on offer from God (James 1:5a).
  - C. God's wisdom requires \_\_\_\_\_ (James 1:6-7).

#### Additional Notes:



## Diving Deeper in Scripture Together

### Questions for Discussion & Reflection

James 1:1-8

1. What would you write if you were asked to complete this sentence, "My brothers, count it all joy when...." How is it different from James' inspired version? Why is the Holy Spirit's version so surprising?
2. This epistle (letter) is written by James (James 1:1). Who is James and what do we know about him? If you are able, look up Matthew 13:53-55, Mark 6:3, I Corinthians 15:7.
3. How do you introduce yourself to others? Is it similar to or different from the way the half-brother of Jesus, James, introduces himself in verse 1?
4. James likely wrote sometime between 45 and 49 AD to a largely Jewish population. What Old Testament book is James most like and how?
5. "James' focus is on the fact that true faith *results* in works. Works don't *produce* faith; true faith *produces* works." How does this differ from and agree with other books of the Bible?
6. In the face of painful persecution, what perspective does true faith offer? (hint: two points were mentioned)
7. What does James 1 teach us about trials? Was any of this information surprising to you? Convicting? Encouraging?
8. Read John 16:33 – what surprising statement does Jesus make? How should this change your perspective?
9. What is "steadfastness"? Use a dictionary if you need to. How do trials produce this? What is the effect of steadfastness and how can this encourage you when facing trials?

10. How can you “consider” it joy – when you don’t *feel* joyful? Share your struggles and practical triumphs, then pray with one another that you would consider your trials as joy and that steadfastness would have the full effect in your life.
11. What does the world define as wisdom? How do you struggle to pursue biblical wisdom? In contrast to the world’s view, how does James define wisdom in verses 5-7?