James #11

The testing of your faith produces a steadfast life.

Open back up in our anchor study of James chapter one RF.

As we go back into James 1 - keep in mind James, the half-brother of our LORD, took over the church in Jerusalem. That congregation was predominately Jewish converts.

James was also reaching out to the Jews who may be Bels that were scattered abroad.

Never lose sight of the fact the letters in the NT… especially in the NT, were designed to reach beyond their current day.

OT writers were touched by God the HS yet many may not have realized how many years – in some cases, thousands of years, that their writing would touch into the very distant future.

By the time of the writing of the NT, many doctrines related to eschatology became more apparent. By the closing of the completed canon of scripture around 95 AD - under the Apostle John, the whole plan of GOD and every dispensation became crystal clear.

Let us read right thru to verse 8 to get back on track;

Jam 1:1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

[Jas 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/2/s_1147002) Consider it all joy, my brothers *and sisters,* when you encounter various trials,

All Christians will encounter attacks, adversity and testing in their spiritual journey.

All adversity can be turned into an opportunity for growth and also the opportunity to glorify God in the Angelic Conflict.

Even self-induced misery can become a curse turned into a blessing.

That only happens when the Bel marches forward into maturity.

Which Pastor James clarifies in these scriptures.

/[Jas 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/3/s_1147003) knowing **that the testing** of your faith produces **endurance**.\

We see the building block principles the Apostle Paul was so gifted at, the building seen in many of his teachings.

The joy we should have, is an inner contentment, it is divine happiness. It is not a foolish, care-free attitude in the face of adversity.

It is a reliance upon the person and work of Christ and HIS power in your life.

 REPEAT

[Jas 1:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/4/s_1147004) And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

The perfect result speaks to the Ultra grace life – super-grace maturity.

[Jas 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/5/s_1147005) But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

What you are doing right now – bible study, filled by GOD the HS is asking and seeking for divine wisdom.

[Jas 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/6/s_1147006) But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

Doubt and anxiety are the enemies to the building of a strong faith.

[Jas 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/7/s_1147007) For that person ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

[Jas 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/8/s_1147008) *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

The original language looks more like this;

/Jam 1:3 – *that the testing of your faith produces patience*.

(present tense- we keep enduring, we keep facing different tests, we keep growing)

Testing – *dokimion,* proving by experiment, testing and experience.

Patience – *hypomonē,* a patient endurance, a calm assurance, steadfast.\

DOC-KEE-ME-ON, is something you have to participate in, it is your walk. your test and it also means there will be a result…a pass or fail.

It is not a test or experiment without an end result.

HOOP-ON-OH-MAY, a steadfast consistency. It is not a forced patience, while tapping your feet and looking at your watch, wondering when God will come through for you.

 REPEAT

Jump over to Hebrews chapter 6 RF.

This faith is a foundation which builds into a calm assurance, knowing GOD has a plan and you are directly inside of it!

The adversities, challenges and tests of this life are not useless…they are not in vain. They produce something, there are results.

Sometimes positive, sometimes negative, yet never empty, never void of a result.

/1Pet 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, **if necessary**, you have been distressed by **various trials**, 7 so that **the proof of your faith**, *being* more precious than gold which perishes though **tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;\**

The Apostle Peter is saying if necessary, we all face different points of testing and trials – some worse than others.

Teaching us, that Christians endure different challenges and we all will be evaluated at the Bema Seat Judgment of Christ.

There will be a result - there is always a negative or positive result.

Crowns, blessings and rewards are a solid doctrine, seen in NT teachings.

Equality in heaven therefore, is not true.

Now in Hebrews we have a letter addressed to Jewish converts, probably in Italy or Palestine. There are debates about where the letter was written and then sent too.

Also, about who wrote the letter – it was someone with high intellect and great doctrinal knowledge.

I happen to lean toward Dr. Luke under the authority of the Apostle Paul.

The problem was arising that many Jewish converts were heading back into Judaism, or blending a new Gnostic, religion that intertwined with Judaism.

The person and priesthood of TLJC is a strong theme within this letter.

This section of the letter warns not to keep laying the same salvation foundation – it warns of not remaining a babe in spiritual growth.

It is a gentle call toward deeper doctrines.

/Heb 6:9 But, beloved, **we are convinced** of better things regarding you, and **things that accompany salvation**, even though we are speaking in this way.

What accompanies salvation is what Pastor James was teaching as well. This is not a works program – it is related growth and the Fruit of the Spirit.\

If you are stuck in the early stage of salvation and also believing you can lose your salvation, you are confused.

Then you believe you have to work toward a relationship with GOD, this is a misconception of true spirituality and an assault on God’s grace plan.

/[Heb 6:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/6/10/s_1139010) For **God is not unjust** so as to forget **your work and the love** which you have shown toward His name, by having served and by *still* **serving the saints**.

What you have done in the SPIRIT – bible study, helping others, prayer, enduring a test, forgiveness, growing, loving (agape’) others, etc.…GOD sees and never forgets that! \

The work - is good work – divine work done in the new nature.

/[Heb 6:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/6/11/s_1139011) And we desire that each one of you demonstrate the same **diligence** (*spoudē*) so as to realize the **full assurance of hope** until the end,

To strive with great focus, a serious purpose and with a controlled haste and accuracy.\

SPOO-DAY, this means an eager diligence with a business-like effort, it is something serious.

This is not sloppy, quick or careless. Procrastinators need not apply!

This is a call back toward the fervent relationship, that a backsliding Believer once had with the LORD.

 REPEAT

/Heb 6:11 - *realizing the full assurance of hope;*

*pros plērophoria elpis-* to step outward, take advantage with a serious intent, walking in the FULL confidence of the true faith of what you know Christ has done and who HE is.\

PRO-US PLAY-DEF-AH-REEHA EL-PIECE

PRO-US, to take advantage and move toward a goal – to step lively in a forward direction.

PLAY-DEF-AH-REEHA, the root word means fully persuaded – having a strong confidence.

EL-PIECE, a true faith, confident expectations – knowing the outcome.

You have to have a walk that brings forth inner strength – you cannot walk into spiritual growth on a tight rope of worry, doubt or false doctrines that leave you in confusion.

 REPEAT

[Heb 6:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/6/12/s_1139012) so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and endurance inherit the promises.

/Promises is written in the plural, because this is not about salvation that is a phase one promise. This looks beyond the salvation gate at the whole plan of God. Be imitators of those who went before us (apostles and saints OT). Those who kept growing, stumbling and yet recovering inside the justice system of God. Those who tasted victory and defeat in the temporal, yet kept their eyes on the prize – the Victory in Christ.\

Jump over to Luke chapter 21 in closing today.

Spirituality is not about a frustrating life of sinless perfection.

It is recognizing GOD has given us all we need to walk through the temporal life and reach a super-grace maturity.

If you walk in frustration and confusion, that means your flesh is in control. It may also mean, you have not submitted yourself under the right teaching.

 REPEAT

Look what our LORD told HIS closest disciples;

Luk 21:12 “But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, turning you over to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors on account of My name.

All growing Christians need to understand this.

This rings true today – for all Bels who begin to break through toward maturity.

Persecution from the devil’s world is a great sign of positive results in your walk.

/[Luk 21:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/21/13/s_994013) “**It will lead to an opportunity** for your testimony.

The words of the Lord Jesus Christ – adversity, attacks and tests, that is your opportunity on the spiritual witness stand.\

Then notices what our LORD tells us to do during unjust and unfair attacks;

[Luk 21:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/21/14/s_994014) “So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves;

/[Luk 21:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/21/15/s_994015) for **I will provide you eloquence and wisdom**which none of your adversaries will be able to oppose or refute.

This is provided every time a Bel is positive toward BD and filled by God the HS. If you are unavailable or apathetic toward the two power options, you will fail miserably on the witness stand.\

God provides everything in HIS grace plan – your free will either responds and takes advantage or rejects and remains in the flesh.

It really is that simple – if someone gives you a gift and you refuse to open it and look at, then learn about how to use it, that’s on you!

/[Luk 21:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/21/16/s_994016) “But **you will be betrayed** by parents, brothers *and sisters, other* relatives, and friends, and they will put *some* of you to death,

Jesus Christ made a matter-of-fact statement – there is no maybe, or wiggle room. THIS WILL HAPPEN.\

[Luk 21:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/21/17/s_994017) and you will be hated by all people because of My name.

/[Luk 21:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/21/18/s_994018) “And *yet* not a hair of your head **will perish**.

You are born again – your resurrected life is guaranteed by the First fruits of the Resurrected Messiah.\

That is where we gain stability – that is where a calm assurance and a foundation of a steadfast faith is built upon.

/[Luk 21:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/luk/21/19/s_994019) “By **your endurance** you will **gain your lives**.

You live the life GOD ordained for you in eternity past – you become the winner Bel HE called you to be. That is your true life – your life in the flesh is DEAD.\

The same Greek word we looked at earlier – *hypomonē* (HOOP-ON-OH-MAY)

A steadfast endurance, a strong or lasting confidence which brings forth a perseverance, beyond just common patience.

/By your steadfast inner strength, which gives you incredible perseverance. The positive Believer grows into who GOD called them to be – all blessings, crowns and rewards are now achievable because a mature capacity was reached. There is a vast difference, between simply walking in your position occasionally and living a lifestyle of super-grace maturity.\

We saw the result of this in our recent study of Job;

Job 42:16 After this, Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons and his grandsons, four generations. 17 And Job died, an old man and full of days.