James #36

Divine Happiness is learned under pressure.

Let us get back into our anchor study of James chapter one RF.

We will read from verse 6 where we left off, into verse 14 to get us back on track;

Jam 1:6 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.

The Christian’s faith and growth is evident in their lifestyle…actions speak louder than words.

James is beginning to build a lesson on faith without works, pointing to a failure in the Christian-walk.

It may mean they are not born again and saved - yet more often than not, it speaks to the maturity level of the Believer.

 REPEAT

[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.

When emotions are allowed to rule your life, you become unstable in all your ways.

It also means you are walking in the flesh – temporal death, which means there is break of communication and intimacy between the Bel and God.

[Jas 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/9/s_1147009) Now the brother *or sister* of humble *circumstances* is to glory in his high position;

Keep in mind the historical context of the letter – Pastor James is addressing issues of arrogance and pettiness within the Jerusalem congregation.

[Jas 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/10/s_1147010) but the rich person *is to glory* in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away.

[Jas 1:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/11/s_1147011) For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so also the rich person, in the midst of his pursuits, will die out.

This sent us on a study about death from a theological perspective.

Death is covered in several categories in scripture.

/[Jas 1:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/12/s_1147012) **Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved**, he will receive the **crown of life** which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.\

There are several pertinent doctrines wrapped up in this scripture, that we must have clarity on.

We need to set anchor here for the next few lessons.

[Jas 1:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/13/s_1147013) No one is to say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

[Jas 1:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jas/1/14/s_1147014) But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

/Jam 1:12 *Blessed is the man who perseveres under trials* –

Perseveres *–* (pres,act,ind) *hypomenō,* a continuing, steadfast, patient attitude. To remain and stand your ground.

Trials – *peirasmos,* is better translated temptations.

The present tense tells us these temptations are not a ONE TIME event. The active voice points to the Bel’s responsibility and it is a factual part of life – indictive mood.\

We have seen this word HOOP-AH-MAINO before, it means steadfast and to dwell in something; to stand your ground, it points to endurance.

PIE-ROS-MOS – is better described as a temptation or a test.

Testing is pressure put on you to see what is in you, testing is never to show GOD where you are at – it is for your benefit to learn & grow, and find out where you are truly at.

Testing is used in two ways in the Bible for growth and awareness. Within awareness it may simply make you wake up and take responsibility and make adjustments.

 REPEAT

You can never tell what people are like under ordinary circumstances but you can always tell what people are really like when they are put under enough pressure.

/This is telling us that we can have divine happiness (Blessed) under the greatest pressures of life. Divine Happiness is a condition of the soul; it has a number of ways of expression. There is a whole spectrum of true happiness, from a calm, tranquility to an ecstatic joy. Jam 1:12 – is speaking about endurance under pressure, which is never going to bring ecstatic joy.\

Jump over to 1Corinthians chapter ten RF.

The common-sense approach under pressure means the SM Bel does not fall apart under pressure. They still have a calm endurance in their approach.

No one is ecstatically over joyed in the middle of adversity.

In this part of 1Corinthians the Apostle Paul is addressing some of the Greek practices and concerns of eating meat or spiritual offerings that were made to false idols.

Warnings of getting involved in fellowship with demonic practices is part of the lesson.

1Cor 10:1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers *and sisters,* that our fathers were all under the cloud and they all passed through the sea;

Notice the example of the Dispensation of Israel is often used in the teaching of the Apostle Paul.

You will always note that the Apostle Paul is never telling us to follow Israel’s laws and commands - but learn from their mistakes.

/[1Co 10:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/10/2/s_1072002) and **they all were baptized** into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

A different baptism and a different age. There are seven baptisms we can note in scripture.\

You and I were never identified with Moses and the Exodus generation.

[1Co 10:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/10/3/s_1072003) and they all ate the same spiritual food,

[1Co 10:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/10/4/s_1072004) and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.

/Today in the Church Age, we have a completed canon of scripture – we have the bread of life, the mind of Jesus Christ. We are washed by the filling power of the HS and the intake of BD washing over our soul. There are rituals, commands and laws in the OT that were shadows or analogies of what we have today – pointing us to the definitive doctrine of dispensations.\

[1Co 10:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/10/5/s_1072005) Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased; for *their dead bodies* were spread out in the wilderness.

The first generation of the Exodus did not enter the promised land, due to rebellion and arrogance.

So many Bels faced the sin unto death during that period of the 40 years of wandering in a circle within the desert.

Many Christians today wander around in a circle out in the cosmic system desert. Their time, talent and treasure they have is squandered on the devil’s world.

/1Cor 10:6 Now **these things happened** **as examples for us**, so that we would not crave evil things as they indeed craved *them.*

As examples – we are never called by any NT teaching into following strict protocols of any other age, except the Church Age.\

Are main concern are the two power options – if that is habitually in order, we are following the plan of GOD.

Mat 5:17 shows us the very words of Jesus Christ; *“Do not presume that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets;  I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.*

Everything is fulfilled in TLJC – therefore we live within our union with HIM.

[1Co 10:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/10/7/s_1072007) Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND TO DRINK, AND ROSE UP TO PLAY.”

The Apostle Paul references the Exodus generation when Moses was away up on Mount Sinia.

/Exo 32:6 So the next day they got up early and **offered burnt offerings**, and brought **peace offerings**; and the people sat down to **eat and to drink**, and got up to engage **in lewd behavior** (*ṣāḥaq*). 7 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, “Go down at once, **for your people, whom you brought up** from the land of Egypt, **have behaved corruptly** (*šāḥaṯ)*.\

SAW-HACK, is a Hebrew verb describing foolishness, it is usually related to a party lifestyle, to become a laughingstock - looking like a fool.

SHAW-HAT, speaks to perversions, it is written in the PEIL stem, which points to physical and mental corruption – to be marred by perverted behaviors.

[1Co 10:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/10/8/s_1072008) Nor are we to commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.

PORN-NEW-OH, is where we get our English word pornography from.

It pointed to perverted sexual behaviors and anything that was sexual intimacy outside the marriage bed.

/Every time we entangle ourselves into deeper levels of intimacy with relationships in the cosmic system, and ideologies outside the plan of GOD, we begin to have a form of mental intercourse. Music, money, drugs, sex, even family and careers can become little idols that we lose ourselves in. Sometimes God will test us in these areas as way to give us awareness.\

Where your priorities are is where you heart and desires will lean toward.

As Jesus said – where your treasure is, will be where your heart will be.

/Some of the Corinthian Christians not only got too close in their association with idols; they also made an idol out of their own human knowledge and their own status or entitlement from wealth and what some perceived as spiritual gifts. Many in Corinth also maintained unhealthy connections to the Greek lifestyles of promiscuousness or self- indulgent attitudes.\

[1Co 10:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/10/9/s_1072009) Nor are we to put the Lord to the test, as some of them did, and were killed by the snakes.

The Apostle Paul references Numbers chapter 21 here.

God tests us…we don’t test GOD!

/God sent fiery serpents among the people in Numbers 21. Again, their hard hearts proved them to be self-focused and more concerned with their own desires than God’s glory – the same issues causing trouble among some of the Corinthian Christians. God used the Bronze Serpent on the pole as a lesson that sins are only dealt with through the work of Christ on the Cross.\

[1Co 10:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/10/10/s_1072010) Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were killed by the destroyer.

[1Co 10:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/10/11/s_1072011) Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

***Ages***, is the Greek noun – *aiōn (EYE-ON),* it is written in the plural sense, meaning two or more.

The King James has it written – the end of the world, which is not accurate.

Ages or as I like to remind you – dispensations.

[1Co 10:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/10/12/s_1072012) Therefore let the one who thinks he stands watch out that he does not fall.

[/1Co 10:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/10/13/s_1072013) **No temptation has overtaken you except *something* common to mankind**; and God is faithful, so He will not allow you to be **tempted beyond** **what you are able**, but with the temptation will **provide the way of escape** also, so that you will be able to **endure it**.

The temptation means a test or pressure. It can mean something tempting, or it can mean adversity in a different form.\

That Greek noun has several meanings and the root word means to be put under an examination or a legal trial.

/All testing and temptations which come to you are common, all people have the same pressures. The original Greek text is closer to this- “*all testing and temptation is human.”* God has supplied us with everything we need to endure (steadfast) and eventually HE will show you the exit sign.\

We all have different capacities at different stages of growth, GOD is well aware of this.

/1Cor 10:13 - *with the testing also HE will make a way of escape, that you might be able to endure it*. We are responsible for our own growth, just as we are responsible to apply doctrine in the new nature in all circumstances. The word *“will”* means - “*will provide with the testing.*” It is written in a future tense, it is future from the testing, it is future from the temptation. There is an endurance needed in it! \

That endurance comes from the proper application of the two power options, learning and growing habitually. Everything GOD supplies us.

The Apostle Peter taught a very similar lesson in 1Peter chapter one;

/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;\

We will be covering more of this in the next message because we need to look at what God is teaching us about the exit strategy.

[1Co 10:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/10/14/s_1072014) Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

(present tense – keep on fleeing)

ALL idolatry is a stumbling-block, not simply sexual or addictions – all forms of idolatry bring forth problems.

[1Co 10:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1co/10/15/s_1072015) I speak as to wise people; you *then,* judge what I say.

The Apostle Paul tells them to discern and evaluate with the doctrine in your soul – test the spirt coming from my pulpit is what he tells them.

Is the message coming from the pulpit aligning properly with how it is originally written and does is align with other scripture?

Is the man behind the pulpit playing on emotions or using impressive word games, word games that align with the cosmic system?

That is your personal responsibility.

/1Jhn 4:1 Beloved, **do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits**to see whether they **are from God**, because **many false prophets** have gone out into the world.\