



The Book of James: Chapter 1:1-11

- **PRAYER:** Father, reveal depth and understanding of Your Word to us tonight!

New Living Translation (NLT)	English Standard Version (ESV)	Passion Translation (PAS)
<p>¹ This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing to the “twelve tribes”—Jewish believers scattered abroad. Greetings!</p> <p>² Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.</p> <p>⁵ If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. ⁶ But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.</p> <p>⁹ Believers who are poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them. ¹⁰ And those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them. They will fade away like a little flower in the field. ¹¹ The hot sun rises and the grass withers; the little flower droops and falls, and its beauty fades away. In the same way, the rich will fade away with all of their achievements. (James 1:1–11 NLT-SE)</p>	<p>¹ James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.</p> <p>² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.</p> <p>⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.</p> <p>⁹ Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, ¹⁰ and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. ¹¹ For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits. (James 1:1–11 ESV)</p>	<p>¹ Greetings! My name is Jacob, a and I’m a love-slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. I’m writing to all the twelve tribes of Israel who have been sown as seeds among the nations. ² My fellow believers, when it seems as though you are facing nothing but difficulties, see it as an invaluable opportunity to experience the greatest joy that you can! ³ For you know that when your faith is tested it stirs up power within you to endure all things. ⁴ And then as your endurance grows even stronger it will release perfection into every part of your being until there is nothing missing and nothing lacking.</p> <p>⁵ And if anyone longs to be wise, ask God for wisdom and he will give it! He won’t see your lack of wisdom as an opportunity to scold you over your failures but he will overwhelm your failures with his generous grace.^d ⁶ Just make sure you ask empowered by confident faith without doubting that you will receive. For the ambivalent person believes one minute and doubts the next. Being undecided makes you become like the rough seas driven and tossed by the wind. You’re up one minute and tossed down the next. ⁷⁻⁸ When you are half-hearted and wavering it leaves you unstable. Can you really expect to receive anything from the Lord when you’re in that condition? ⁹ The believer who is poor still has reasons to boast, for he has been placed on high. ¹⁰ But those who are rich should boast in how God has brought them low and humbled them, for all their earthly glory will one day fade away like a wildflower in the meadow. ¹¹ For as the scorching heat of the sun causes the petals of the wildflower to fall off and lose its appearance of beauty, so the rich in the midst of their pursuit of wealth will wither away. (James 1:1–11 PAS)</p>

– KEY WORDS:

• **Servant** - v.1

- GK G1529 | S G1401 **δοῦλος** *doulos* 126x
- a male slave, or servant, of various degrees, Mt. 8:9, et al. freq.; a servitor, person of mean condition, Phil. 2:7; fem. δούλη, a female slave; a handmaiden, Lk. 1:38, 48; Acts 2:18; δοῦλος, used figuratively, in a bad sense, one involved in moral or spiritual thralldom, Jn. 8:34; Rom. 6:17, 20; 1 Cor. 7:23; 2 Pet. 2:19; in a good sense, a devoted servant or minister, Acts 16:17; Rom. 1:1; one pledged or bound to serve, 1 Cor. 7:22; 2 Cor. 4:5 → servant; slave.

• **Scattered** - v.1

- GK G1402 | S G1290 **διασπορά** *diaspora* 3x
- pr. a scattering, as of seed; dispersion; in NT meton. the dispersed portion of the Jews, specially termed the dispersion, Jn. 7:35; Jas. 1:1; 1 Pet. 1:1*
- The word **Diaspora** is a transliteration of a Greek word that means “to sow throughout” or “to distribute in foreign lands” or “scatter abroad.” Some form of the Greek word is seen in six different New Testament passages, and at its simplest meaning, the Diaspora refers to Jews who were living outside of Israel having been dispersed or scattered to other Gentile countries. In modern parlance, the Diaspora refers to the scattering of the Jews throughout Europe who returned to their homeland in 1948 with the creation of the state of Israel by a United Nations resolution.

• **Trials** - v.2

- GK G4280 | S G3986 **peirasmo/β** *peirasmos* 21x
- a putting to the proof, proof, trial, 1 Pet. 4:12; Heb. 3:8; direct temptation to sin, Lk. 4:13; trial, temptation, Mt. 6:13; 26:41; 1 Cor. 10:13; trial, calamity, affliction, Lk. 22:28 → temptation; trial.

• **Steadfastness** - v.4

- GK G5705 | S G5281 **ὑπομονή** *hypomonē* 32x
- patient endurance, 2 Cor. 12:12; Col. 1:11; patient awaiting, Lk. 21:19; a patient frame of mind, patience, Rom. 5:3, 4; 15:4, 5; Jas. 1:3; perseverance, Rom. 2:7; endurance in adherence to an object, 1 Thess. 1:3; 2 Thess. 3:5; Rev. 1:9; ἐν ὑπομονῇ and δι' ὑπομονῆς, constantly, perseveringly, Lk. 8:15; Rom. 8:25; Heb. 12:1; an enduring of affliction, etc., the act of suffering, undergoing, etc., 2 Cor. 1:6; 6:4 → endurance, endure; perseverance.
- **Steadfastness** or **patience** is the ancient Greek word hupomone. This word does not describe a passive waiting, but an active endurance. It isn't so much the quality that helps you sit quietly in the doctor's waiting room as it is the quality that helps you finish a marathon. The ancient Greek word hupomone comes from hupo (under) and meno (to stay, abide, remain). At its root, it means to remain under. It has the picture of someone under a heavy load and resolutely staying there instead of trying to escape. The philosopher Philo called hupomone "the queen of virtues."

• **Wisdom** - v.5

- GK G5053 | S G4678 **σοφία** *sophia* 51x
- wisdom in general, knowledge, Mt. 12:42; Lk. 2:40, 52; 11:31; Acts 7:10; ability, Lk. 21:15; Acts 6:3, 10; practical wisdom, prudence, Col. 4:5; learning, science, Mt. 13:54; Mk. 6:2; Acts 7:22; scientific skill, 1 Cor. 1:17; 2:1; professed wisdom, human philosophy, 1 Cor. 1:19, 20, 22; 2:4, 5, 6; superior knowledge and enlightenment, Col. 2:23; in NT divine wisdom, Rom. 11:33; Eph. 3:10; Col. 2:3; revealed wisdom, Mt. 11:19; Lk. 11:49; 1 Cor. 1:24, 30; 2:7; Christian enlightenment, 1 Cor. 12:8; Eph. 1:8, 17; Col. 1:9, 28, 3:16; Jas. 1:5; 3:13 → wisdom.
- **In trials...**we need wisdom a lot more than we need knowledge. Knowledge is raw information, but wisdom knows how to use it. Someone has said that knowledge is the ability to take things apart, but wisdom is the ability to put things together.

• **Faith** - v.6

- GK G4411 | S G4102 **πίστις** *pistis* 243x

- faith, belief, firm persuasion, 2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:1; assurance, firm conviction, Rom. 14:23; ground of belief, guarantee, assurance, Acts 17:31; good faith, honesty, integrity, Mt. 23:23; Gal. 5:22; Tit. 2:10; faithfulness, truthfulness, Rom. 3:3; in NT faith in God and Christ, Mt. 8:10; Acts 3:16, et al. freq.; ἡ πίστις, the matter of Gospel faith, Acts 6:7; Jude 3 → faith; faithfulness; trustworthiness.

- **Double-minded** - v.8

- GK G1500 | S G1374 **δίψυχος** *dipsychos* 2x
- double-minded, inconstant, fickle, Jas. 1:8; 4:8*
- **Being double-minded...** To ask God, but to ask Him in a doubting way, shows that we are double-minded. If we had no faith, we would never ask at all. If we had no unbelief, we would have no doubting. To be in the middle ground between faith and unbelief is to be double-minded.

- **Boast** - v.9

- GK G3016 | S G2744 **καυχάομαι** *kauchaomai* 37x
- to glory, boast, Rom. 2:17, 23; ὑπέρ τινος, to boast of a person or thing, to undertake a complimentary testimony to, 2 Cor. 12:5; to rejoice, exult, Rom. 5:2, 3, 11 → boast; brag; rejoice.
- **Encouragement for those affected by trials...** Trials serve to remind the rich and the high that though they are comfortable in this life, it is still only this life, which fades as the grass grows brown and the flowers fade away.

- DIVINE WISDOM...

Not until we have become humble and teachable, standing in awe of God's holiness and sovereignty. acknowledging our own littleness, distrusting our own thoughts, and willing to have our minds turned upside down, can divine wisdom become ours. ~ J.I. Packer

It is highly dangerous to receive the truths of the Bible with human wisdom, for this is a hidden and subtle method which invariably causes a believer to perfect with his flesh the work of the Holy Spirit. ~ Watchman Nee

If you lack knowledge, go to school. If you lack wisdom, get on your knees! Knowledge is not wisdom. Wisdom is the proper use of knowledge. ~ Vance Havner

- PERSONAL APPLICATION:

- If you were trying to figure out whether you are actually living your life as a “servant of Jesus,” what evidence would you look for?
- From the perspective of pursuing Christlikeness, what is the connection James talks about between trials and joy and how would you might see it demonstrated in your personal life?
- What are some specific areas of your life where you really need godly wisdom to make godly choices?
- If it takes faith to receive wisdom from God, exercising our faith should help prepare us for pursuing wisdom. What are some way you could plan a “spiritual work-out” to grow in your faith?
- Are you reluctant to “boast” about the things God has done in your life? If yes, why?