

James 1:1-4 "Transforming Trials"

Wed Night
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~~Bro~~
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1. Introduction

a. Who is James?

- Acts 1:14 in upper room
- Acts 15:13, 22 one of Jerusalem church elders
- Gal 1:19 James the Lord's brother
- Jude 1:1 brother of Jude

b. Highest title Christian can have is servant of Jesus Christ

- bondservant slave willingly to Lord Jesus Christ

c. Four transforming truths

2. Facing Trials

a. With rejoicing

- "count it all joy"
- not possible to be "happy" in sorrows

b. "Looking unto Jesus... enduring the shame (but future joy) - Heb 12:2

- Philp 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord

c. With reliance

- "trying of the faith works patience (produces endurance)" - 1 Pet 1:7

- lack wisdom?

- * Jms 1:5-6 ask God with faith

d. With resilience

- "let patience have its perfect (mature) work - Jms 1:4"
- let the trial complete its work

3. Fraudulent Trials

a. Turning to bitterness during trial

b. Looking for "cause" of trial

- "why?"
- sin in Christian life?
- blame someone else?
- remember Job's patience (Jms 5:11)

c. Comparison of trials

- Jms 1:9-11

* Poor man purpose to be exalted

* Rich man becoming humble

d. Turning to loving God (Jms 1:12)

- endure temptation, approved of God
- receive crown of life

3d. Cause of trials

- Jms 1:13-16
 - * God does not tempt anyone
 - * God also cannot be tempted by evil
- human tempted by own bad lusts
 - * baited hook to entice bite

e. Good gift(s) in context of trials

- every good & perfect gift
 - * from Father of lights
 - * Heb 13:5 life without covetousness
- Jms 1:17-18
- God has no hint of changing

4. Function of Trials

a. Trial(s) designed to transform person

b. Christian to restrain himself

- swift to hear
- slow to speak
- slow to wrath
- man's anger does not produce righteousness
- Jms 1:19-20

c. Bring into captivity every thought (2 Cor 10:5)

d. Christian to receive God's Word

- Jms 1:21 path forward
 - * receive implanted (grafted)
- be doer of the word with meekness

e. Christian to respond

- Jms 1:22-25
 - * continues in the word
 - * doer of the word
 - * key is obeying the word

5. Fruit of the Trials

a. Revealed character

- Jms 1:26-27
- Religious?
 - * Useless religion is uncontrolled speech & deceives his own heart

b. Pure & undefiled religion

- servant service for others
 - * keep yourself clean life
 - * visit orphans & widows in their trouble