

**FOR THE BROTHERS:
A STUDY IN THE EPISTLES OF JAMES, JOHN, JUDE
AMEN BIBLE STUDY 2016-2017**

**James: Facing Life's Trials: James 1:1-18
September 29, 2016**

I. Live out your role.

A. Before God

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, ...
cf. Acts 15:13-21; Galatians 1:19; 2:9

B. In the Church

... To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.
cf. II Corinthians 4:5; I Peter 1:1; 2:11, 12

II. Rejoice in your trials

A. Completely

² *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials ...*

B. Always

... of various kinds,...

C. Gratefully

... ³for 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.
cf. Romans 5:1-5; II Cor. 4:16-18; Col. 1:24; I Peter 1:6-9; Matt. 5:10-12; Hebrews 12:3-11

Testing → Steadfastness → Maturity

D. Confidently

¹² *Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.*

III. Cast off your doubts.

A. The reward of faith

⁵ *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.*
cf. Matthew 7:7; 21:22; John 14:15, 16; I John 5:14

B. The dangers of doubt

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. ⁷For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*
cf. Matthew 14:22-26

IV. Boast in your poverty.

A. Poverty = exaltation

⁹ *Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, ...*
cf. Proverbs 14:31; 19:17; 21:23; 22:22; 28:27; 30:8, 9

B. Wealth = humiliation

... 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.
cf. Proverbs 11:4; 16:8; 23:4, 5; I Corinthians 7:31; II Corinthians 8:9; I John 2:17

V. Resist your temptations

A. Don't blame God.

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.
Habakkuk 1:13a

B. Take responsibility.

¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers.
cf. I Corinthians 10:13

Temptation + Desires = Sin → Death

C. Look to God.

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.
cf. I Peter 1:23