

Series "Marks Of Maturity"
"Trials"
James 1:1-12
Study-1

The Book of James: A General Epistle

1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3 John, and Jude letters are not limited to a single locality.

Author: Church tradition names James, the Lord's brother. **James 1:1 James,**

There are three different Jameses in the N. T.

1. James, the son of Zebedee (**Matthew 4:21; 10:2; Luke 5:10**)
2. James, the son of Alphaeus (**Matthew 10:3; Acts 1:13**)
3. James, the son of Joseph & Mary (**Matthew 13:55; Galatians 1:19**)

Tradition says - it was the Lord's brother James.

Internal evidence is - the language of the letter drafted **Acts 15:23-29**

James did not believe in the claims of Jesus.

John 7:5 After the resurrection something changed.

1 Corinthians 15:7

James was in the upper room (**Acts 1:13**) and later became a leader in the Jerusalem Church. **Acts 15, 21, Galatians 1, 2**

Purpose –

1. To show that true faith produces good works.
2. To emphasize the practical aspects of Christian living.

Theme – "Christian Maturity" or "Marks of Maturity"

Key Words – God 34 times, does 21 times, faith 16 times, works 15 times, good deeds 11 times

Key Verses: James 1:19-22

Key Chapter – James 1 The most practical chapter of the Bible.

Date: AD 46-49 - Probably written from Jerusalem. **Acts 15; Galatians 1:19**

Content: 13 Marks Of Maturity -

1st Mark Of Maturity: **Trials.**

2nd Mark Of Maturity: **Temptation**

3rd Mark Of Maturity: **The Word**

4th Mark Of Maturity: **Partiality**

5th Mark Of Maturity: **Faith**

6th Mark Of Maturity: **Tongue**

7th Mark Of Maturity: **Wisdom**

8th Mark Of Maturity: **Submission**

9th Mark Of Maturity: **Speech**

10th Mark Of Maturity: **Planning**

11th Mark Of Maturity: **Wealth**

12th Mark Of Maturity: **Patience**

13th Mark Of Maturity: **Prayer**

Verse 1 Introduction: James 1:1 James, being the half-brother of Jesus

a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Brother of the Lord simply calling himself a servant,

(Not "*the brother of Jesus*" but servant!)

twelve tribes

The book was written to Jewish believers. Jewish flavor.

who are dispersed abroad, – Greek Word "*scattered like seed*"

greetings – a common form of an official greeting, "*to rejoice*"

Context: trials **Romans 12:15**

Thought Of Our Passage: "Our Trials Include A Joyful Attitude, Understanding Mind, Prayerful Heart, Glory In Spiritual Position, And Looking Forward To The Reward."

We will look at Five Areas to Determine "The Mark Of Maturity In Trials."

1. Verse 2 A Joyful Attitude:

James 1:2 Consider it all joy,

James is writing to Jews who are outside of their promised land.
They are doubly persecuted (Jews/Christians) **Hebrews 12:11**

Count: consider (count)

An accounting term. It means "*to evaluate,*"
It is an honest assessment of the figure.

Looking trial/hardship from a spiritual perspective.

God wants us to respond with our minds not our emotions.

"when"

Notice James does not say "**If**" you will have trials (Inescapable)

you encounter – "*fall into*" **various trials,**

The word **various** - "*Varied-color, all shapes and sizes*"

John 16:33; 1 Peter 1:6; 4:12-13

trials, (testing)

God tests to bring out our worth or our value

2. Verses 3-4 Understanding Mind: (Respond intelligently)

James 1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

Know: knowing that the testing (*Temptation*) of your faith,

Faith must be tested. Something Christians must know.

James says so - **James 2:6,7, 5:4-11,13,14**

(Romans 12:2 transformed by "Renewing Of Our Minds")

Abraham Was Tested – Genesis 22:1

Joseph Was Tested -

We will be tested as to how genuine our faith truly is. 1 Peter 1:7

Trials Produce Patience produces endurance (Patience, Durability),
"brave endurance, steadfastness,"
"Pressing into the wind" (Testing's make us strong:)
Romans 15:5 "God of patience."

James 1:4 A Surrendered Will:
(Let) And let endurance have its perfect result,
I can circumvent the work of God in my life.

Verse 2 - Count, Verse 3 - Know, Verse 4 - Let,
All of these are imperatives.

so that you may be perfect - *Mature become "fully grown or fully ripe."*

and complete,
Whole, without defects. An animal without blemish fit to offer.

3. Verses - 5-8 A Prayerful Heart:

James 1:5 Humanity Needs God's Wisdom:
But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, (Verse- 4) lacking in nothing.

This is a recurring thought: if we are lacking in maturity, we need to pray!

Wisdom: lacks wisdom, - *"the practical use of knowledge."*
How to utilize my trial, how to respond.
(Wisdom to View life from God's perspective)

Prayer: let him ask of God, Where Do We Find Wisdom?
Learn/gain it on our knees.

who gives to all generously -
(God is generous) The word means *"to stretch out"*

and without reproach,
God will not reproach us - *"insult, to harm."*

and it will be given to him.
Notice it says that "it will be given!" (Certainty)

God's Promise To Answer Our Prayer For Wisdom:

James 1:6 Faith: (How to pray) But let him ask in faith
This phrase is used only **two to four times** in the Old Testament, but is used **16 times** in the book of James.
without any doubting,
"Not wavering"

driven and tossed by the wind.

One minute faith, then doubt.

James 1:7

This doubter is not to expect to get the wisdom/power they need from God.

James 1:8 double-minded

(literally "two-souled") Two minds, one on God, the other on the world.

Unstable in all his ways. "The Mark Of Immaturity Is Instability"

4. Verses 9-11 Glory In Our Spiritual Position:

James 1:9

Verse 9 The Rich Poor: humble circumstances (poor earthly status),
Financial hardships.

glory – *"find joy and satisfaction" in his high position;*

Have a way of causing us to evaluate what's important.

2 Corinthians 5:17; John 14:1-6

Verses 10-11 The Poor Rich:

and the rich man is to glory *"find joy and satisfaction" in his humiliation,*
(Not in his possessions)

because like flowering grass he will pass away.

Isaiah 40:6

James 1:11 The Rich Without Jesus Christ: his pursuits will fade away.

5. Verse 12 Look Forward To The Reward:

James 1:12 Blessed is a man - *"Oh how happy, how to be envied."*

who perseveres under trial; Not running from your trials but enlisting in your trials. **Verse - 2 Count, Verse - 3 Know, Verse - 4 Let,**

Inner Blessedness: for once he has been approved,

"Tried, succeeds in passing the test"

Reception of The Crown: crown of life,

"The crown which consist in life"

Application:

1. In Our Trials - A Joyful Attitude
2. In Our Trials - Understanding Mind
3. In Our Trials - A Prayerful Heart
4. In Our Trials - Glory In Our Spiritual Position
5. In Our Trials - Look Forward To The Reward