

James 1:1-8

Greeting to the Twelve Tribes

1 James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

The perspective of a “bondservant:”

a person who serves in bondage; a slave

a person bound to service without wages

-This letter is not written from the perspective of a professional pastor, teacher, etc.
not for a salary, not for position, not for the glory, but...

-This is the perspective of a slave to Jesus: **(Identification III)**

-James' “slave hood” gives him the authority to write this letter.
-not from a throne, but from his own chains.

To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad

-To the young church, scattered... who are dealing with the STUFF of life.

Profiting from Trials

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

-When the going gets tough... consider it an opportunity for great joy. **(Opportunity III)**

-What does that practically mean?

-Don't get depressed

-Don't doubt God and His faithfulness

-Don't get negative; don't give up...

-**CONSIDER IT JOY! Why?**

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

“**patience**” = endurance = spiritual strength = maturity = stronger faith = Christ's Image

(Working Out III) (Weight Loss III)

-Knowing that “Working Out” your faith will make you mature and more like Jesus.

4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

-God uses trials to grow us up:

-If we respond to trials in an incorrect way; we remain spiritual children. **(My Kids III)**

-If we embrace God and His ways during trials, He uses them to make us more mature/complete.

So, as you are going through trials...

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

- God gives wisdom away for free!
- If you need wisdom ask God, He will give it to you. **(What did God say? III)**
- We make things much more complicated than they need to be.

6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

-In the end, you have to **Trust God and His Wisdom**: His Word and the Holy Spirit

- If you doubt God's wisdom, you will be like a wave at sea: **(The God of the Universe III)**
 - constantly driven and tossed about in all directions by the wind
 - never settled, secure, and calm (Disciples at Sea III)

7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Have you ever wondered why some “christians” never grow up?

-If you doubt God's wisdom, His Word and the Holy Spirit:

- You will not be able to receive wisdom, direction, or the fruits thereof from God
- You will be double-minded.
 - Your loyalty will be divided between God and the World.
 - You are choosing the world's wisdom over God's wisdom.
 - You will be a “lukewarm” Christian.
 - You will continue to “circle the mountain.” (Trail III) (GPS III)
- You will be “unstable” in all your ways. (Unstable III)
(Stock Market III)

What is God saying to you right now about your situation?

Have you even stopped and asked Him?