



“Drawing From the Well”

“Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” Isaiah 12:3

Womens Ministry of Calvary Chapel Bible Fellowship

JAMES 1:1-11

Lesson 3

*“When trouble comes our way, we can do one of three things;
endure it, escape it, or enlist it.*

*If we only endure our trials, then trials become our master,
and we have a tendency to become hard and bitter.*

*If we try to escape our trials, then we will probably miss the purposes God wants to achieve in our lives.
But if we learn to enlist our trials, they will become our servants instead of our masters and work for us;
and God will work all things together for good and His glory.” Warren Wiersbe*

DAY ONE: Review of Overview & James 1:1

- Share one insight or thought on James from last week’s lesson or lecture that remains with you today.
- Prayerfully read **James 1:1-11**. Mark the paragraph divisions in **James 1:1-11** as follows and title each paragraph. You will see the main subject of each section by looking for key repeated words or words necessary to make sense. List the key words for each segment in the column under the Scripture reference. Then title each segment. Remember to read with a purpose by asking the questions *who, what, where, when, why and how*.

James 1:1	James 1:2-4	James 1:5-8	James 1:9-11
Segment Title:	Segment Title:	Segment Title:	Segment Title:

When we study the Bible it must accompany a fervent desire to put into practice on a daily basis whatever the Lord tells us to do (**James 1:22**). This week’s lesson presents a powerfully challenging perspective on trials that, if followed, will transform our life. Commit yourself to allowing the Word of God to work the changes within you by writing a prayer expressing your willingness and desire. Thank Him for His enabling power and the work He will do.

“For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” Philippians 2:13

4. The early church knew James as *James the Just*. As the half-brother of Jesus, who was James' father and how is he described in **Matthew 1:19a**?
 - a. What does "*the Just*" say to you about James' character?

5. We know from our study in James thus far that the letter is addressed to the twelve tribes scattered abroad (see lesson 1). According to **Acts 8:1b** and **Acts 11:19** why were they scattered abroad?
 - a. Pagan worship had a strong foothold all throughout the Roman Empire in the first century; the early church endured much for the sake of the gospel. Put yourself in the place of these believers who were scattered abroad. Think for a moment of some of the difficulties you might encounter in settling in these unfamiliar countries. List a few here:

"If we are going to turn trials into triumphs, we must obey four imperatives: count (James 1:2), know (James 1:3), let (James 1:4, 9-11), and ask (James 1:5-8). Or, to put it another way, there are four essentials for victory in trials: a joyful attitude, an understanding mind, a surrendered will, and a heart that wants to believe."

Warren Wiersbe

DAY TWO: James 1:1-4

1. Prayerfully read **James 1:2-4**. List what we *know* to be true from this passage.

2. Look up *Temptations* (#3986) using your study tools and write out the definition.
 - a. *Note*: This word does not mean seduction to sin. See and record God's purpose in this with the children of Israel from **Deuteronomy 8:2-6**.

 - b. Note the word *when* in **James 1:2**. It is not *if*. We *will* have trials. Growth in our life will depend on our attitude toward them. How does **Hebrews 12:11** help you with this? (*Note*: all testings are not chastenings).
 - 1) Look up and meditate on **Isaiah 43:1-2**. Notice the faithfulness of God *when* we face trials!

3. Look up the definitions for the following words from **James 1:2** using your study tools.
 - a. *Count* (#2233)

- b. **Joy** (#5479)
 - c. Is this our natural reaction to trials?
4. Look up the definitions for the following words from **James 1:3-4** using your study tools from.
- a. **Faith** (#4102)
 - 1) Why does our faith need to be tested?
 - 2) Share in a practical way how we can *count it all joy* when we go through trials or testings.
 - a. **Perfect** (#5046)
 - b. **Complete – Entire** KJV (#3648)
 - 1) Does this mean that we will be perfect in the sense of completely sinless on this earth? Why or why not?
5. **James 1:3** reveals that the testing of our faith produces *patience*. Look up *patience* (#5281) and write out the definition.
- a. Check out the things wrought by faith in **Hebrews 11:33-34**. Use other versions if you like. Record the verbs that describe the victory or write each phrase.
- Challenge:** Choose one of the Heroes of Faith in **Hebrews 11** and tell how his or her faith challenges you to *count it all joy* when your faith is tried.
6. Picture **James 1:2-3** in relationship to the persecution the believers suffered in the first century. How might a lack of patience (steadfastness, endurance) have affected their faith and ability to endure?
7. Meditate on **1 Peter 1:7-9** in the light of the trying of your faith. What does it say to you? Read it from the Living Bible if you have access to one.

*“But in every situation God gave blessed consolation
That my trials come to only make me strong.” Andrae Crouch*

DAY THREE: James 1:5-8

1. **Prayerfully read James 1:5-8.** Use your study tools to look up the following words from **James 1:5**. Write out your findings here:

- a. *Wisdom* (#4678)
- b. *Let him ask* (#154)
- c. *Liberally* (#574)
- d. *Reproach* or *Upbraideth* KJV (#3679)

2. Another way of looking at this wisdom in **James 1:5a** is from J.B. Phillips’ translation:

“And if, in the process, any of you does not know how to meet any particular problem he has only to ask God.”

Either viewpoint of **James 1:5a** is valid. The important point in this verse is what to do about our lack of godly wisdom. Print the two words from **James 1:5a** that tell us what we are to do when we *lack wisdom*.

- a. Wisdom has been defined as knowledge applied or insight. We discover two sources of wisdom in **James 3:14-18**. What are they?
 - 1)
 - 2)
- b. There will always be someone that will tell you what you want to hear in any given situation. There are many that are willing to “give counsel”. But not *all* counsel is wisdom from God. Where should we *not* go for wisdom? Look up the following verses and comment.
 - 1) **Psalm 1:1**
 - 2) **1 Corinthians 3:19a**

Personal: Do you believe that God’s Word has all the wisdom we need to lead and guide and direct our lives in every situation? Really think about this before you answer!

3. Look up and meditate on **Proverbs 14:1** in relationship to godly wisdom governing her response to her trials. How will the wise woman react?

4. Reflect on the word *ask* in **James 1:5a**. How do the following verses amplify this word:

- a. **Luke 11:9-10**
- b. **John 15:7**
- c. **Philippians 4:6**

- d. **1 John 5:14-15**
5. Observe wisdom from **Proverbs 4:5-13**. Choose a few choice phrases concerning wisdom from these verses to contemplate. Write them here.
6. Using your study tools, look up **Wavering** (#1252) and record the definition here:
7. How is the man who *doubts* described in **James 1:7**?
- a. What are the consequences of doubting God?
- b. What may cause a Christian to doubt that God would supply the *wisdom* asked for?
- c. Look up the following verses and record what they have to say about this subject.
- 1) **1 Timothy 2:8**
- 2) **Hebrews 11:6**
8. Look up the following verses and record what they teach about faith. Take your time and make sure you look at the context of each passage.
- a. **Matthew 21:21-22**
- b. **Mark 11:23-24**
- c. **Luke 1:37**
- d. What is the object of our faith?
9. Review **James 1:5-8**. What does this passage reveal about God?

“As Christians we know that in the life of a child of God every trial and test has been permitted by God as a glorious opportunity for us to react to them in such a way that our Lord and Savior is able to produce in us, little by little, His own lovely character.” H. Hurnard

DAY FIVE: James 1:9-11

1. Prayerfully read **James 1:1-11**. Do you see anything new as you read through this time?

2. James gives us a practical illustration of his exhortation to *count it all joy* no matter what our circumstances by pointing to two classes of people. Observe this from the following Phillip's version. "*The brother who is poor may be glad because God has called him to the true riches. The rich may be glad that God has shown him his spiritual poverty.*" Explain in your own words why each should *count it all joy*.

3. The contrast of poverty and wealth in **James 1:9-11** draws our attention to the *diverse temptations* or *various trials* we could fall into in either circumstance. Often the poor man thinks his problems are far worse than the rich man's but the perils of prosperity can be just as dangerous, if not more. What does **1 Timothy 6:17-18** call these riches?
 - a. In contrast to riches, what is Jesus according to **Hebrews 13:8**?

4. This attitude of rejoicing no matter what your status is certainly not popular in our time nor was it in the time of James' writing. To rejoice we must see our lives in the light of spiritual reality – what is really important eternally? We must have God's perspective on our circumstances. The goal of our life now is to grow into Christian maturity. See the rejoicing that James illustrates in response to our difficulties as stepping-stones on the path to spiritual maturity. What does **2 Corinthians 4:16-18** have to say? Write it out and memorize this passage!

5. What can you find to rejoice in, regardless of your present circumstances? Write them out here!

Challenge: Prayerfully search the Scripture and find one person in the Bible (Old or New Testament) that rejoiced in what we would consider terrible temporal circumstances. Record how this person's life is an encouragement to you. **OR**, prayerfully search the Scripture and find one person in the Bible (Old or New Testament) that had great faith. Record how this person's life is an encouragement to you. Read **Hebrews 11** to get some ideas if you don't know where to begin.

*“Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines;
the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat;
the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:
Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will truly find joy in the God of my salvation.”*
Habakkuk 3:17-18