

## **Book of James Part 2 (Chapter 1)– Wes Martin**

### I. OUTLINE

1. The Purpose of Troubles – vs. 2-4
2. Doubt and Unbelief – vs. 5-11
3. The Adversary's Plan – vs. 12-16
4. Father of Lights – vs. 17-18
5. The Perfect Law of Liberty – vs. 19-27

### II. THE PURPOSE OF TROUBLE

***My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. James 1:2-4***

- A. The New Testament Church seemed to understand the purpose and privilege of trouble. This truth needs to be regained in our day.

***We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. Romans 5:3-4***

***God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Matthew 5:11***

***The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus. Acts 5:41***

- B. Trials, trouble, or pressure tests our faith in Jesus (ultimately our relationship or connection with Him). Pressure will reveal the strength and/or weakness of something. This testing produces patience or perseverance (the strength to not quit). Patience produces maturity.
- C. Spiritual Maturity: the fruit of the Holy Spirit alive and well in someone's life: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
- D. The response towards God when trials or troubles come our way is very clear.

***This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life. Psalm 119:50***

***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in our troubles...2 Corinthians 1:3-4***

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***But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen and settle you. 1 Peter 5:10***

- E. We were born hard wired with a deep need for God as Father – Dad. The Jews use the endearing term ‘Abba’. We were made with a limp and that limp is the need for God. Trials and troubles are meant to drive us towards Dad. His loving embrace and the power of Him “holding” us is what helps us to carry on.
- F. Jesus was the only man to ever face the difficulties and pressure of life without sinning and closing off his heart to the Father. Even Jesus had to ask for help.

***“Abba, Father,” he cried out, “everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.” Mark 14:36***

***For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”Romans 8:15***

*James was challenging the Jewish believers to live patiently in difficult times. There are two main ways to deal with difficulty – fight or flight. He is calling those dispersed to continue to walk with the Lord by living godly regardless of the consequences. James is telling them that God will have his complete work. He is producing patience and perfecting [maturing] our lives. – Dale Anderson*

### III. DOUBT AND UNBELIEF

***If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting...James 1:5-6***

- A. The first phrase of verse 5 tells the whole story – “If any man lacks wisdom”. This is the defining issue of our walk in this life. The battle line is clear, we lack sufficient wisdom on our own to keep us relating to God in a real living way, especially under the pressure of trials and trouble.
- B. Wisdom is more than just knowing facts. Wisdom is knowing facts and then knowing how to act upon those facts in a consistent way.
- C. Remember pressure will tempt us to quit. Pressure can cause us to quickly lose our grounding in faith and fall back into the old habits of sin:

***When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness...Galatians 5:19-21***

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*Double-mindedness and doubt enters in when we don't believe that Jesus wants to hold us even in our failures. This is double-mindedness, that we can't believe He loves us or wants to help us even when our thoughts are unkind, envious, selfish, murderous, etc. Maturing faith and love understands that no matter what comes up inside the heart, God has love for us and He has no scolding spirit when we are in need. – Dale Anderson*

- D. The Puritans learned to hate their sin without hating themselves.
- E. When we come to Father God and simply say, "Can you help me?", realizing that He wants that more than we often do, James is saying He will do just that.

### IV. THE ADVERSARY'S PLAN

***God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him....Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. James 1:12-15***

- A. James reveals how Satan plans to distract us, condemn us and ultimately get us to quit. We all know this cycle well. Remember by God's grace WE can stop the cycle anywhere along the way through repentance and believing in the faithfulness of Jesus.
  - 1. **Stage one** begins with sinful desires within us. If not checked, which the Holy Spirit offers in so many ways then the desire can give birth to sin.
  - 2. **Stage two** is when we give in to the sinful desires by our actions. This stage is hard and dangerous because accusation from Satan is amplified.
  - 3. **Stage three** is when the sin causes death around and within us. This can be anything from mental, emotional, relational or spiritual death. Adam and Eve did not experience physical death in their failure in the garden, it was spiritual which had a direct impact on them in the natural.
- B. James leaves this section and transitions to the next using verses 16-18. He tells us not to be deceived by the way this formula of sin works. Sin will manifest in death and there is no one to stop it except God Himself by the gospel of Jesus.