

James

(3) Instruction for the trial

James 1:2-8 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. 6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does. NIV

God's provision in the midst of the trials...1:4-8

What does James say in verse 3-4 is God's goal for us in a trial? 1:3-4

The testing of our faith develops perseverance which when completed leads to maturity.

How does the writer of Hebrews describe this process? Heb.12:4-12, note vs.11

It may be for discipline (chastening, reproof). It's for our good; yields righteousness.

What does the Lord promise even in the trials? Jer.29:11-14

His plans are welfare/hope, not calamity. Then you will pray/seek Him. You will find Me.

What is indicated by 'without finding fault...'? 1:5

The Lord doesn't lecture us in the process! No rebuke, chiding, etc. Just abundant Grace.

But there's a restriction on His answer to a request for wisdom. What is it? 1:6a; Heb.11:6

There must be no doubt. No accusations, remembering Phil.4:19. Trust in His Word.

Why does God *not* answer in this case? That is, what's the 'asker' really like? 1:6b-8

He's like the ocean waves. Up, down, drifting, churning, unstable. Not settled on the Word.

What is God's instruction to this double-minded man? IITim.3:16-17; 2:15

Study, work at, accurately handling the Word of Truth. It's profitable for...correction.

Identifying some of the double-minded issues...1:9-12

What 'social status' does James address next? 1:9; IPet.1:3-6; Rom.8:16-18

The poor. These scattered Jews lost everything. Driven into exile. No home, job, security.

What's the exhortation to these in 'humble circumstances'? 1:9

Take pride (boast, rejoice) in the high position believers have in Christ! ALIVE!

And to the rich, those who *presently* have earthly wealth? 1:10-11

Take pride in his low position. Riches fade like the grass withers. Rejoice in spiritual life!

James 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. NIV

Finally, how is the one who loves God identified? 1:12

He is the one who perseveres under trial. Doesn't blame God, lose faith. True salvation.

And this true believer is blessed (same word as in beatitudes) in what way? 1:12

He will receive a crown (victor's) that is (eternal) life. To all those who love Him!