

James

Temptations, Trials

&

Triumph

Outline of the Book:

- Trials and Truth 1:2-27
- Problems and Faith 2:1-26
- Words and Wisdom 3:1-18
- Conflicts and Submission 4:1-5:6
- Overcoming 5:7-20

James jumps right in...

- Having greeted and blessed the “12 tribes”
- “all joy esteem brethren...” word order in Greek
 - *chara* – joy, gladness
 - *hegeomai*- count, think, esteem rule over (Ph 2:3,6)
 - This is a choice of our wills (see Ro 5:3ff)
 - This is NOT a call to suffering and masochism!
 - *peirasmos* - an experiment, attempt, trial, proving...
not always in the negative, but we associate it so... Mt 6:13; 1Co 10:13; 1Pt 1:6; 4:12; 2Pt 2:9
 - “Trials rightly faced are harmless, but wrongly met become temptations to evil.” A.T. Robertson

Nature of trials (3)

- Yes, trials do come to all... in many forms!
- We are surrounded (*peripipto*)...and yet rejoice?
- We should KNOW – (*gnosis*)
 - Trials are not just for trials sake... not a god of pain...
 - *dokimion* (2x; 1Pt 1:7) - the genuine element, prove
 - “Your faith like gold stands the test of fire and is approved as standard.” A.T. Robertson
 - Faith is the foundation of our lives in Christ
 - Produces, works endurance! *hupomone*
 - Steadfastness, one not swerved by problems, stress

Effects of endurance

That is, the temptations and trials of life are to prove us: they are for a beneficial purpose; they are permitted by God for a good purpose (W.E. Vine. *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, p.116). What is that purpose?

When we conquer temptation, we become a much more pure person—more holy, righteous, and just.

When we triumphantly go through the trials of life, we become a much stronger person—more steadfast, enduring, and persevering

When we stand up against trials and temptations, we become a dynamic witness to all those who see us: we demonstrate the living presence and power of Christ—that He actually does live in our hearts and lives and is going to give us eternal life.

Power of Endurance (4)

- “endurance its work perfect let have” Greek
 - Present active imperative verb here... continued
 - This is not a matter of “putting up with it...”
 - Encourage and allow the process to go full circle!
 - *telios* is the goal of the endurance for us...
 - How? Compliance, pliability, obedience, look forward
- Perfect, complete, nothing lacking
 - Is this not a worthy goal to strive for?
 - *holokleros* – (2x 1Th 5:23) nothing wanting, whole
 - Lacking nothing... what could we lack?

Possibilities of failure (5-8)

- **Lacking WISDOM** (*sophia*) practical knowledge
 - A popular passage often out of context...
 - We want to choose which wisdom to get!
 - lacks – banking term, to fall short of the count
 - When we realize it.. Our awareness is crucial!
- **ASK OF GOD** – *aiteo* – beg, desire, crave
 - This is NOT some vague idea or concept
 - Are we desperate for God's insight into our trials?
 - God is not stingy, nor unwilling here...
 - But, we must ask & keep on asking! (pres. act. imp.)

Possibilities of failure (5-8) Cont'd

- God is the SOURCE of wisdom (Proverbs; Ex 28:3)
 - *didomai* – grant, delivers; *haplos* (1x) freely, simply
 - Isa 55:1; Pr 2:3ff
 - Ask and it shall be given... Mt 7:7 and Lk 12:48!
- Conditional... ask in faith...
 - this is what is being perfected! (see vs. 3!)
 - doubting (*diakrino*) oppose, strive, dispute, contend
 - Like the surf of the sea being dashed (Lk 8:24)
 - Such people receive NOTHING!!
 - *dipsuchos* (2x 4:8) two-souled/faced! James-ism