

## The Book Of James #2-The Perfecting of Our Faith

### Memory Verse - **Hand Out Scriptures to read**

**Hebrews 12:2** (NIV84) *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

This epistle was written, about AD 45–48. James seems to have resided at Jerusalem, and to have been the bishop of the church there;

The name James comes, after a very curious evolution, from the Hebrew name Jacob. When in Greek times people were named after Jacob—the arch-father of Israel—they were given the Hellenized version Jacobos (Iakobos). Hence there are four men in the Bible called Jacobos (James):

### Faith Lasts

**James 1:2–3** (NKJV) *My brethren, count it **all joy** when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.*

**1 Peter 1:6–7** (NKJV) *In this you **greatly rejoice**, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, **Constant irritation produces pearls.***

**Matthew 5:10–12** (NKJV) *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. <sup>12</sup> **Rejoice** and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

**Acts 5:40–41** (NKJV) *And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. <sup>41</sup> So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. **"Shake well before using."***

**1 Peter 4:12–13** *Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; <sup>13</sup> but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with **exceeding joy.***

The Greek word used in verse 3 for the testing of our faith refers to the process of proving the genuineness of something.

\***Job 23:10** (NKJV) *But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.*

**Acts 16:25** (NKJV) *But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.*

- We must ask in faith, not doubting. Isn't that sometimes hard? Who doesn't, at times, struggle with doubt? When that happens, what's crucial is to pray and to start dwelling on all the reasons we have for faith: the story of Jesus, the prophecies in the Bible, and our own personal experiences.

The ultimate goal of our faith being tested is "patience" endurance **Philippians 1:6** *being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*

**John 6:29** (NKJV) *Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."*

### Perfection

**James 1:4** (NKJV) *But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*

**The word in Greek for "perfect" is tel'-i-os meaning complete or spiritual maturity.**

**Matthew 5:48** (NKJV) *Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.*

**Philippians 2:13** (NKJV) *for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

\***Ephesians 4:13** (NKJV) *till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

**Philippians 3:12–15** (NKJV) *Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature[perfect], have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.*

### Asking in Faith

**James 1:5–6** (NKJV) *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. 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.*

**Matthew 21:21–22** (NKJV) *So Jesus answered and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done.”<sup>22</sup> And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”*

**\*Mark 11:24** (NKJV) *Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*

**Mark 9:23** (NKJV) *Jesus said to him, “If You can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”*

### Asking For Wisdom

**Prov. 9:10** *“the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom”*

**\*Job 28:28** (NKJV) *And to man He said, ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, And to depart from evil is understanding.’ ”*

**Psalms 111:10** (NKJV) *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.*

**James 2:15–16** (NKJV) *If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,<sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?*

**James 1:19–21** (NKJV) *So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*

**1 Corinthians 1:30** (NKJV) *But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—*

**Faith** = Belief, trust, to be steady, firm, accept as true, be sure. Faith is firm belief with strong conviction in something for which there may be no tangible proof; complete trust in or devotion to. Faith is the opposite of doubt.

- “Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins where man’s power ends.” George Muller.
- Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible.
- “Faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of faith is to see what we believe.” Augustine.
- Unbelief puts our circumstance between us and God, but faith puts God between us and our circumstances. -- F.B. Meyer

### The Flip Side of Faith

**James 1:6–8** (NKJV) *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.<sup>7</sup> For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

**Numbers 13:30–31** (NKJV) *Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.” But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.”*

**The word “doubt” here refers to one being inwardly divided; Faith cannot be based on all the current weather changes.**

**John 15:7** (NKJV) *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.*

**\*1 John 3:22** (NKJV) *And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.*

**Luke 17:5–6** (NKJV) <sup>5</sup> *And the apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.” <sup>6</sup> So the Lord said, “If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.*

**Mustard seed faith was plenty if our faith is alive and growing.**

### The Rich and the Poor

**James 1:9–11** (NKJV) *Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.*

**James 1:27** (NKJV) *Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.*

**James 5:1–4** (NKJV) *Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! <sup>2</sup> Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. <sup>3</sup> Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days. <sup>4</sup> Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.*