

1:1 James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.

1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

1:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

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

1:5 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.

1:6 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.

1:7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

1:8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

1:9 Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation,

1:10 but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away.

1:11 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.

Good morning everyone, and welcome to the first week of September, the time of worship.

1 Greetings from Jacob, a servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ, to the people of the Twelve Tribes who have been dispersed.

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This James is thought to be the brother of Jesus, James who had a leadership role in the Jerusalem Conference of Acts 15.

He was a "brother who did not believe in Jesus" (John 7:5), but after the resurrection of the Lord, he became a deep believer in the Lord, even calling himself a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ sent from God. In this book, he wrote words rich in practical suggestions on what faith means, how a believer should live, and what the church is like.

A people of dispersion. This refers to the Jews widely scattered throughout the Roman world, as well as those "who were scattered because of the persecution that arose against Stephen," Acts 11:19.

2 My brethren. When you meet with trials of any kind, consider them rather as very pleasant.

3 For as ye know, patience is produced by the testing of faith.

As we recently learned in Hebrews 12, "All training does not seem pleasant at first, but rather sad. But later, they will bring forth the fruit of peace and righteousness in those who are being trained by them." Trials

are not considered pleasant, but here it says, "Consider them rather as very pleasant.

For us, it is a suffering to encounter various trials and tests. Students may say that there is nothing more horrifying than the word "test.

However, he says that all kinds of trials test our faith and cause us to persevere, so that we can consider them joyful, in fact, we can consider them very joyful.

4 Therefore, let your patience be fully exercised, so that you may be perfect and complete, without any defect.

By this test of faith, by which our faith is tested in every possible way, we are able to make ourselves a perfect person. Therefore, for us, the perfection of our faith is of the utmost importance. It is what makes us a complete and finished person. That is why the opportunity for that formation is so precious and valuable.

We can understand that difficult situations are opportunities for us to develop our "faith. When we consider what we do in such a situation as an opportunity for faith to work, when we think about each thing by faith as a training of faith, we are participating in this test of faith, and thinking by faith becomes a place to work with patience, and it becomes a "perfect, complete, and finished work without any defects" (Psalm 119:1). We are told that this is a rather joyous situation because it is the path that leads us to "a perfect man, without defect.

Romans 5:3 Not only so, but he also rejoices in tribulation, for tribulation is patience. For tribulation produces patience,

5:4 For we know that patience produces renunciation, and renunciation produces hope.

5:5 And hope does not end in disappointment. 5:5 And hope does not end in disappointment, for the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to follow Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

16:25 Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

16:26 For what profit is it if a man gains the whole world, but loses his own life? And at what price can a man buy back his life?

Matthew 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

4:24 And his reputation spread throughout all the land of Syria, and people brought to him those who were sick of all kinds of diseases and afflictions, those who were afflicted with demons, epileptics, gout, etc., and he healed them.

4:25 And there came to Jesus great multitudes from Galilee, and from the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond the Jordan, following him.

5:1 When Jesus saw this crowd, he went up on a mountain and sat down, and his disciples came near to him.

5:2 Then Jesus opened His mouth, and taught them, saying, "Do not be afraid, my disciples; for I am with you always, and will not leave you.

5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

5:4 Blessed are the sorrowful, for they shall be comforted.

Romans 8:37 But in all these things we have more than enough, through him who loved us.

8:38 For I am persuaded, that in Him who loved us, we have more than enough to win in all these things.

8:38 For I am convinced, that in all these things there is no difference: neither death, nor life; neither angels, nor rulers; neither things present, nor things to come; nor things in power,

8:39 Neither high things nor deep things, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

5 If any of you lacks in wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives generously to all without reproach. 6 But do not doubt, but have faith.

6 But ask in faith, and do not doubt. The doubter is like the waves of the sea, which sway as the wind blows.

This word "wisdom" seems to come out of nowhere, but I believe it refers to these words in Proverbs 1.

1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; the foolish despise wisdom and its lessons.

1:8 My son, thou shalt hearken to the precepts of thy father, and shalt not forsake the teaching of thy mother.

Fear the LORD, and live in faith in Him. Like the waves of the sea that sway with the wind, we were in an unstable and undefined way of life, only to be blown around. But we have met the Lord who rules over the storms of Galilee.

Mark 4:35 Now that day, when evening came, Jesus said to His disciples, "Let us cross over to the other shore."

4:36 So they left the crowd behind and embarked, leaving Jesus in the boat. The other boats went with them.

4:37 And there arose a violent gust of wind, and the waves came crashing into the boat, almost filling it.

4:38 But Jesus himself was asleep in his bed in the bow. Then His disciples woke Him up and said to Him, "Teacher, are you not sorry that we are drowning?"

4:39 And Jesus arose and struck the wind, and said unto the sea, Be still, and be silent; and the wind ceased, and there was a great rushing.

4:40 Jesus said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Why do you have no faith?"

4:41 They were terrified, and said to one another, "Who is this man? Who is this that makes the winds and the sea obey him?"

This is the answer to our extremely unstable lives, tossed to the left and right by the winds of an uncertain tomorrow. The Lord gives us wisdom without reproach and without reserve.

Solomon also sought wisdom before God.

Chronicles 1:7 And God appeared to Solomon that night and said to him, "Ask what I will give you.

1:8 Solomon said to God, "You have shown great mercy to my father David, and have made me king in his stead.

1:9 O LORD God, fulfill what you promised to my father David. For thou hast made me king over a people as many as the dust of the earth.

1:10 Give me wisdom and knowledge now that I may go in and out before this people. Who is able to judge such a great people of yours?

1:11 And God said unto Solomon, This thing was in thine heart, that thou didst seek neither riches, nor treasure, nor honour, nor the life of them that hate thee, nor long life, but only wisdom and knowledge for thyself, to judge my people, of whom I have made thee king,

1:12 Wisdom and knowledge are given unto thee, that thou mayest judge my people, whom I have made thy king. I will also give thee riches and treasure and honor, such as the kings before thee have not yet obtained. And those after thee shall have none of these things."

Matthew 6:33 Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be yours. Then all these things will be given to you with it.

6:34 Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow. 6:34 Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow itself will be anxious about itself. For one day's toil is enough for one day.

6 Only ask in faith, and do not doubt. A doubter is like the waves of the sea, which sway as the wind blows.

7 Such a man should not think as if he can receive anything from the Lord.

8 Such a man is of two minds, and there is no stability in all his actions.

9 The brother of a low estate should rejoice that he has been exalted.

As in James 2, we see that there were poor and rich in the church, and that the danger of discrimination was in their hearts.

The word "two minds" is used in verse 8, and it refers to those who have divided their loyalty to God, those who do not boil over and make their attitude clear, and those who are hypocrites. It refers to a person who is divided in his or her loyalty to God, a person who is not clear in his or her attitude, a person who is

hypocritical, a person who is not boiled down to the core, a person who outwardly appears to be religious but is not. Their faith has not reached the marrow of their bones.

Being brought low is also a trial. There are times when living in faith earnestly is not rewarded. There is lack of understanding, slander, criticism, and persecution. There are times when we feel discouraged, as if we are being doused with cold water. But here, too, we are told to rejoice. In other words, boast. In other words, be overjoyed and boast, for it is only in such a low state that you can be elevated. Be proud, boast, and be proud.

Luke 14:11 "For whoever exalts himself will be brought low, and whoever brings himself low will be exalted. 1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, young men. In the same way, young people, follow your elders. And let all of you be humbled one to another. For God turns away the proud, and gives grace to the humble.

5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God. And when the time comes, God will exalt you.

5:7 Cast all your cares upon God, for he is watching over you.

1 Timothy 6:3 (New Revised Bible) If anyone teaches contrary things, and does not agree with the sound words and godly doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ,

6:4 For he is proud, and realizes nothing, and is sick with the disease of doubt and strife of words. 6:5 And the intellect is corrupt, and the heart is corrupt, and the mind is corrupt, and the heart is corrupt,

6:5 And there is constant conflict among those who have lost the truth because their intellect has become corrupt, those who consider piety a means of gain.

6:6 But piety accompanied by a full heart is the way of great gain.

6:7 For we have not brought anything into the world, nor can we bring anything out of it.

6:8 If we have food and clothing, we should be content.

6:9 Those who want to be rich fall into temptation and enticement and many foolish and harmful desires that throw one into destruction and ruin.

6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil. Some have gone astray from the faith because of their pursuit of money, and have pierced themselves with great pain.

6:11 But, O man of God! shun these things, and seek diligently after righteousness, piety, faith, love, patience, and meekness.

10 And let him who is rich rejoice that he has been brought low. For he who is rich will pass away like a herb.

11 For example, when the sun rises and sends a hot wind, it withers the grass. And the flower falls, and its beauty fades away. Likewise the rich man will fall in the midst of his journey.

So let him who is rich go on as one who is lowly, for God is lowly. Today's scripture tells us to know that without God's wisdom and faith in Him, all things will pass away without warning.

We are taught that the key for us is faith. When we go forward without doubting the Lord's strength and truth, when we honestly believe in the Lord alone and make that our wisdom, we will be able to go straight through the torrent.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship. Thank you, God, for teaching us today what we should know and what we should believe in, and for teaching us the blessedness of believing in God. Thank you that trials of all kinds, trials of faith, produce perseverance, and when we put it to work, we become perfect, complete, and without any lack. We thank the Lord for His precious guidance that lifts us up even in our poor circumstances when we seek God's wisdom with faith and without doubting, even in the midst of a life that sways with the wind and has no way of doing anything, where we lack stability and where we may go without faith. Bless our families and the people in our community. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.