

# James Chapter 1



1:1

## Opening Greeting: Being A Servant

Why do you think James introduces himself with this title(1:1)? What point is he making?  
(Refer to the background section if this helps!)

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**BEING A SERVANT**  
**A LIFE GIVEN FOR**  
**OTHERS**



**What does it mean to be a servant? Look up the following verses to see what qualities a servant should (and shouldn't) have:**

**Matt 21:35**

**Matt 22:3-4** A duty to call others (preaching the gospel)

**Matt 24:45-46**

**Luke 17:10** Don't expect a reward; they acknowledge it is their duty

**Gal 1:10**

**Eph 6:5-6**

**Phil 2:7-8**

**2 Tim 2:24-26**

**Being a servant is a busy, fulfilling life!**

# 1:2-12

## **Trials:** God's Way Of Perfecting Us

"My brethren" is a key phrase that occurs 15 times throughout the letter, and is especially amazing considering that this is a man who once struggled to accept his own brother was the Messiah (refer to the background notes). Search through the letter and colour in each appearance – make sure you get all 15!

James begins his letter by dealing with trials. Before we can learn to cope with trials, we have to know what they are! Trials can be sent by God, or they can occur in our daily life due to our own decisions. They are for our personal growth.

Sometimes we imagine trials as some major future event that may or may not come, when in fact we all have daily trials to cope with.

**What are some of your trials? Since trials can be very personal things, we've provided a post-it note you can write on – then screw it up and throw it away! But don't forget what you wrote.**

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**COPING WITH TRIALS  
AN OPPORTUNITY TO  
GROW**



How can I learn to “count them as joy”(1:2)? Fill the gaps in the diagram below to see why we may suffer trials, and why they are actually helpful for us!

Deut 8:2-3

Deut 8:5

2 Cor 1:3-7

2 Cor 12:7-10

Phil 3:7-10; 1 Pet 4:13-14

Heb 5:7-8; Phil 2:8-9

Jam 1:2-4

1 Pet 4:14

Rev 2:10; Jam 2:20-22

But how do trials “perfect” me? The Bible often likens this to the process of refining gold. Look up “gold refining” on Google or YouTube and find out about the process. Then have a look at the following quotes:

1 Pet 1:7

Job 23:10

Prov 17:3

Zech 13:9

So what effect should life's trials have on me?

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**How will asking for wisdom (chapter 1:5) from God help us cope with trials?**

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**Whose perspective does God want us to see things from? How can our limited human perspective sometimes let us down?**

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**Based on James 1:6, why do you think it is so important for us to ask with 100% faith? (Look at Heb 11:6 if you're struggling).**

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1:13-17

# Temptation: Suffering Brought On By Ourselves

Trials and temptations are not necessarily the same thing; trials can be sent by God, or can occur in our daily life due to our decisions. They are for our personal growth. BUT where do temptations come from? Use the verses to fill in the flow chart below:

1:14



1:15(a)



1:15(b)



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TEMPTATION  
FLESHLY DESIRE FROM  
WITHIN



Where does James tell us temptations come from? Within ourselves!

**Now, write out verse 14  
in the space below:**

**Now, write out verse 17  
in the space below:**

**What contrast is James trying to make obvious to us here?**

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Despite our best efforts to avoid it, we will all be tempted due to our sinful nature - Jesus Christ was! (Heb 4:15). Temptation is not a sin - it's whether we let it take hold and act upon it. Remember chapter 1:14-15 - we need to stop the lust 'conceiving' and becoming sin. When Joseph was tempted (Gen 39:12), he fled away before the situation worsened - James tells us to do the same.

**In chapter 1:21, what are two ways James tell us we can avoid/overcome temptation?**

1.

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2.

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Finally, think of Jesus Christ when he was tempted - he always responded with the words of God.

**Look up the following verses in Luke 4 and colour them in to emphasise the point:**

**Luke 4:4,8,10**

"it is written"

**Luke 4:12**

"it is said"

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Chapter 1:21 talks about laying apart or completely removing things from our lives. Verse 22 begins with “but” and gives us something to fill that hole with. We need to do this practically!

**Choose something that you either struggle with, know you shouldn’t do but do, or love to do but shouldn’t, and stop it, replacing it with something else for an entire month!**

**Stop - inappropriate internet sites - replace it with ringing a friend who needs your help. Be part of the 1-month challenge!**

**James 1:22 is the KEY MESSAGE of the entire book!**

**In the space below, re-write verse 22 in your own words, or as though you were explaining this verse to a young child.**

**Why does James end this verse with the warning “not to deceive your own selves”?**

His true intent is to challenge the motive and faith of these deeds and to get us to see if the real power of them behind them is a God-like spirit or man’s own desires dressed up to look the part.  
**Singled minded faith implies a believer to respond to God in faithful action!**

**REMOVING TEMPTATION  
JAMES’ TWO-STEP  
SOLUTION**



# 1:23-25

## Storytime: The Man In The Mirror

Sometimes, a story is the best way to explain a verse. James provides us with one in the next verses: The two men and the mirror.

**Read chapter 1:23-25 then use the word bank below to complete the two parts:**

*distorted; perfect; short; metal; sin; aware; means; reflection; mirror*

The **first man** looks into the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law of Moses. That mirror showed him he fell \_\_\_\_\_ – the law made him \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. But it did not show him a \_\_\_\_\_ image he could reflect (the word “mirror” \_\_\_\_\_ polished \_\_\_\_\_, so the \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_).

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*reflect; actions; himself; whenever; freedom; perfect; continues; sees; image*

The **second man** looks into a "\_\_\_\_\_law", not a mirror. He \_\_\_\_\_looking into this law of \_\_\_\_\_ through Christ – it isn't an \_\_\_\_\_of \_\_\_\_\_, it is of Jesus Christ. \_\_\_\_\_he looks into it, he \_\_\_\_\_who he has to try and \_\_\_\_\_through his daily \_\_\_\_\_.

What do we learn from this? Among other lessons, the secret is to **keep** looking into the mirror. If we glance in but then walk away, we will be like the first man who forgets what he looks like. This can all too easily happen to us! How often do we hear a powerful talk or a motivational point, but then quickly forget it?

**James wants us not to hear and forget, but to hear and act!**

**REMOVING TEMPTATION  
JAMES' TWO-STEP  
SOLUTION**



1:23-25

## Storytime: The Man In The Mirror

Verses 16-25 show us how God has worked in our lives – but we need to respond! As James has told us, it's not enough just to "listen" to all the things God has done – we need to live it too!

**Read through the following checklist (on opposite page) and insert the suitable verse (from the boxes below) next to the summaries (these are not in any order). Notice that everything in the "us" column is an action!**

### US COLUMN

*V16, v19, v19, v19, v21, v21, v21, v22,  
v23-25*

### GOD COLUMN

*V17, v17, v18, v18, v21*

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**TEMPTATION  
FLESHLY DESIRE FROM  
WITHIN**



**US****Put away moral dirtiness (    )****Be ready to listen (    )****Be slow to anger (    )****Receive the word of truth (    )****Think before speaking (    )****Don't wander (err) from what is right (    )****Live like you're reflecting Jesus (    )****Receive God's word and do it (    )****GOD****Wants us in His plan (    )****Gives direction in His book (    )****Gives good gifts (    )****Gave His son for us (    )****Never changes (    )**

**REMOVING TEMPTATION**  
**JAMES' TWO-STEP**  
**SOLUTION**



1:26-27

# Hear and DO! The True Religion Challenge

What are the two things James uses to define “pure religion”?

1.

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2.

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Enough reading and writing; time to DO what James is talking about!

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# The **Chapter 1** Challenge:

**Get a group of two or three of your friends, and PRACTISE true religion:**

- > Go and do some gardening for an older brother or sister – or WITH an older brother or sister.
- > Visit a widow in your ecclesia on a weeknight with something you have baked and do the readings.
- > Make a definite attempt to give up some practise which is popular in the world but not helpful for Godly life i.e. socialising at a bar.

**Challenge themed around James 1:27**

**REMOVING TEMPTATION  
JAMES' TWO-STEP  
SOLUTION**



**HEAR AND DO!  
PRACTISE WHAT WE'VE  
LEARNED**



# CHAPTER 1 RECAP

**BEING A SERVANT**  
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**TEMPTATION**  
FLESHLY DESIRE FROM WITHIN

**REMOVING TEMPTATION**  
JAMES' TWO-STEP  
SOLUTION

**HEAR AND DO!**  
PRACTISE WHAT WE'VE  
LEARNED

