

# Endurance

**James Chapter 1**



# Aim...

- Cover 3 main points...
  - Servant
  - Trial & Temptation
  - Key to Epistle



## 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!)

Key: Mark 3v21, 31-34 – Defines James!

- v21: Family thought Christ crazy.
- v31: Stand “without”, seek to restrain
- v33: “*Who **does the will of God...***”

Jam 1v1

“Servant” = one who does the will of another

- v16-18: “Brethren...Father...of His own will  
*He begat us*” CR Luke 15v18

Link: Respect of Persons (James 2)



# Servant Attributes...

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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 Beat, killed, stoned

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 Seeks to please Christ...does his will

Phil 2:7-8

2 Tim 2:24-26 Must not strive, gentle, God's work!

Being a servant is a busy, fulfilling life!

## What does it mean to be a servant?

Observe One - Luke 22:39-46

- *"Not my will, but thine"*  
Servant (does master's will)
- *"Remove this cup...agony"*  
Duty hard, beset with trial
- *"Pray enter not in temptation"*  
Seeks God's wisdom to endure
- *"Strengthened him"*  
God gives liberally, no hesitation

1:2-12

# Activity!

*“Brethren”*

GK = adelphos

Root – the womb

James’ theme in  
*Chapter 1* on BIRTH!

## 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.**

## Number Significance?

15 = 3 x 5

Fruit x Grace

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



**COPING WITH TRIALS  
AN OPPORTUNITY TO  
GROW**

# Are you serious??

15

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

Prove us, to trust God. CR Ex 14, 16



Deut 8:5

God refines ONLY His SONS! CR Matt 4.

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

Trials can be the hardest & darkest times of our life!  
(1 Pet 1v6, Heb 12v11)

**So where is the Joy?**

v3 – “Knowing this”!

- In the Knowledge of WHAT God is preparing us for & WHY we need it to get there!
- Matt 5v11-12

What do we “Know”?

- Psa 16v7-11

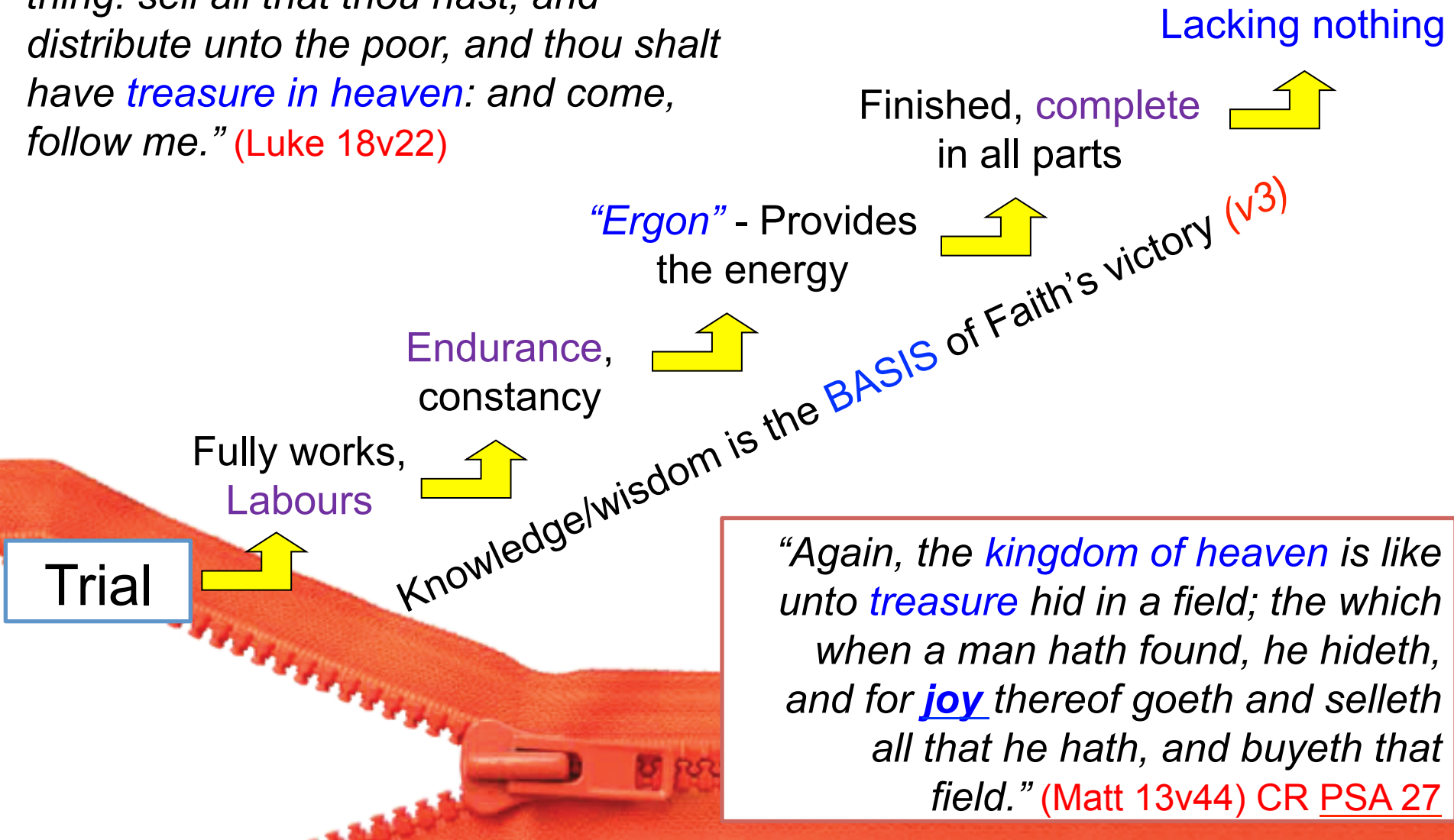


Matt 4 – Why does Christ quote from here?



# Knowledge's Chain Reaction

*"Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me."* (Luke 18v22)



## 1:2-12

Where is the FIRST occurrence of God's Refining Process?

### Genesis 1

- Light
- Separate waters
  - Above – Clouds (Heb 12v1)
  - Below – Seas (Isa 57v20)

**Link:** Jam 1v6

- *“He that wavereth is like a wave of the SEA...”*

## Trials: God's Way Of Perfecting Us

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 Gold in fire – found to praise, honour, glory

Job 23:10

Prov 17:3

Zech 13:9 *“They shall be my people”*

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

*“Though he were a son, yet he learned obedience by the things that he suffered”*

(Heb 5v8)

**Link:** James 5v6-11; Job 42v7-10

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

Because the natural man does not see as God does (Isa 55v8-13). God's wisdom is a light to us!

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

God's perspective! If we don't see God's work we will be TEMPTED to go our own way (Ex 14v3, 11-12, Ex 16v1-3)

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).

Faith is the basis of Victory (1 John 5v4). God can do the humanly impossible when we surrender and acknowledge we can't save ourselves and see His good hand to redeem us

Trial & Temptation = Same GK

- Trial is God's way of testing genuineness of our faith WHEN we see from His view
- Temptation is the natural reaction to prefer our own way
  - Our thinking (Isa 55v8)
  - Cain "*Too much to bear*"
  - Israel in wilderness Ex 14

1:13-17

## Temptation: Suffering Brought On By Ourselves

Temptation is a PROCESS that does NOT come from God (1v13)

*“But every man is tempted, when he is being drawn away of his own lust, and is being enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”*

RSV James 1v13-15

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  
“Being drawn away (to lure)...  
being enticed (to bait)”

1:15(a)

“Lust has conceived”

1:15(b)  
“When finished...Bring forth (birth)  
death”



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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?**

God does not have a dark side, unlike us! He is  
light, so He only wants this for us! Faith decides  
what will be BORN in our life...DEATH or  
IMMORTALITY!



# Born of God – Not of Self

Father of Lights	Firstfruits
<i>Swift to hear</i> (our prayers)	<i>Swift to hear</i> because we listen to God's words (This begat us!)
<i>Slow to speak</i> (in judgment)	<i>Slow to speak</i> to prevent hasty judgment
<i>Slow to wrath</i> (He is longsuffering)	<i>Slow to wrath</i> because man's wrath seeks revenge

*Hearing the Word*



*Doing the Word*

1:19-22

## Lay Aside Evil Deeds: Be Doers Of The Word!

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. *"Lay apart"*

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2. *"Receive"*

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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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# Activity!

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!**

**KEY MESSAGE:**

**James 1v22**

**Genuine Faith Transforms  
your Life!**

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





# Thesis of James

- Faith - Transforms your ENTIRE way of life!
  - Single-minded faith is a DEMONSTRATION of your relationship with God and the foundation of your life.
    - *“Let him ask God. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering”*
    - *“Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh unto you.”*
  - Single-minded faith IMPELS believer to respond to God in ACTION and deny the responses of the natural man.
    - *“Count”, “Knowing”, “Ask”, “Think”, “Endureth”, “Doers”, “Looketh”, “Visit”, “Keep”, “So do”*
    - *“Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, he will flee from you”*
- *“Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only”*
  - A genuine faith is more than mere knowledge and belief
  - it includes heartfelt trust that endures & honours God in DEED!

# Faith in Action

God's Word –  
Save your Soul



examination in  
the Word  
reveals *“the  
face of man’s  
birth”!*

Imperfect

- *“Beholds himself”* – man hears & considers!
- *“Hath beholden himself”* – past tense. Faith not practical.
- *“Goes own way”* – faith not impacted his life
- *“Forgetteth”* – does not see application of Word in his Life each day!
- *“Deceiving”* – Faith academic, reasons away, justifies self!

- ☆ *“Looketh”* – man hears & considers carefully! (Luk 24v12)
- ☆ *“Perfecting”* – Word converts (Psa 19v7, Gal 3v24, 2 Tim 3v15-17).
- ☆ *“Law of Liberty”* – Free from sin (John 8v32-36).
- ☆ *“Continueth”* – abides with power to save and tries to correct attitudes
- ☆ *“Blessed in Action”* – faith impels action

**1:26-27**

## **Hear and DO! The True Religion Challenge**

Biggest Challenge of your Faith?

**Your Tongue!!**  
(Ch 3)

Is your religion in Vain?

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

1. Visit the Fatherless & Widow in need

Link: Respect of Persons (Ch 2)

2. Keep unspotted from the world

Link: Friendship with world in Ecclesia (Ch 4)

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

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