

I. The author of the letter (v. 1-2)

- A. James the brother of Jesus
- B. James the follower of Jesus

“The all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.” (Acts 1:14)

- C. James the servant of Jesus
- D. James the church leader

II. In times of trial we can choose joy (v. 3-4)

- A. We can choose joy in the trials

“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.” (Habakkuk 3:17-18)

“After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.” (Acts 16:24-25)

- B. We can know that our testing develops spiritual toughness

“For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.” (2 Cor. 4:17)

- C. We can know that spiritual toughness helps us grow up

“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. Therefore, among God’s churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.” (2 Thessalonians 1:3-4)

III. In times of trial we can ask for wisdom (v. 5)

- A. Wisdom is the practical use of knowledge

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.” (Matthew 7:24)

- B. Wisdom is always available from God

IV. In times of trial we can have faith in God (v. 6-8)

“Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” (Hebrews 11:1)

- A. We can rid our lives of doubt

“Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him, ‘You of little faith’, he said, ‘why did you doubt?’” (Matthew 14:31)

B. We can stop being indecisive

C. We can settle the war between doubt and faith

V. In times of trial we can have a humble spirit (v. 9-11)

A. The poor can humbly acknowledge their riches in Christ

B. The rich can humbly refuse to trust in their earthly riches

VI. In times of trial we will be blessed by God (v. 12)

A. We are blessed when we persevere

B. We are blessed with the crown of life

“When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.” (Revelation 2:10)

C. We are blessed by the love of God

“How great is the love the Father has lavished upon us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” (I John 3:1)