

Authentic
Authentic Faith in Tough Times

When is a time you felt Sucked in, Washed up and Blown over?

How do you cope when you are overwhelmed with troubles and trials?

This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing to the "twelve tribes" - Jewish believers scattered abroad. Greetings!

James 1:1 (NLT)

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.

James 1:2 (NLT)

I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

John 16:33 (NLT)

How does the fact that everyone faces troubles give you perspective on your troubles?

In what tangible ways do you respond when you see others mired in troubles?

For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

James 1:3-4 (NLT)

Trials leads to **Testing** which leads to **Perseverance** and eventually develops **Maturity**

What Trial in your life made you a more mature person? How?

What trial in your life did you really not learn from? Why?

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind.

James 1:5-6 (NLT)

What situation in your life right now do you need to ask God for Wisdom on?

Believers who are poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them. And those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them. They will fade away like a little flower in the field.

James 1:9-10 (NLT)

*O God, I beg two favors from you;
let me have them before I die.*

First, help me never to tell a lie.

Second, give me neither poverty nor riches!

Give me just enough to satisfy my needs.

For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, "Who is the Lord?"

And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God's holy name.

Proverbs 30:7-9 (NLT)

What kind of trials do people face when money is tight?

What kind of trials do people face when they have plenty?

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

James 1:12-15 (NLT)

Trials leads to Temptation can lead to Sin leads to Death

So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.

James 1:16-17 (NLT)

Where are you now? In the midst of a trial? Coming out of a significant trial? Waiting for the next trial?

And How do you prepare your thinking for the season you are in?