

**JAMES**  
**Salutation and Trials**  
**James 1:1-4**

**Roxborough Bible Chapel**  
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# James 1:1-4

- **OUTLINE**
  - James – the author
  - Trials – Counting them for joy
  - Patience
  - Perfection

# Salutation

## James 1:1 (Author = James)

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

- Most scholars agree that the author was James, the half-brother of our Lord Jesus (not the other 3 James' of the Bible)
- This James was the half-brother of our Lord Jesus (Galatians 1:19, Matthew 13:55, Mark 6:3)
- This James was well-known yet modest not mentioning his physical relationship with the Lord Jesus.
- This James was the one who presided over the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15).

## Salutation

James 1:1 (Author = Bondservant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ)

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

- James is calling himself a bondservant to the Lord Jesus Christ
  - Challenge - Can we call ourselves a bondservant of the Lord Jesus Christ? Or do we want to be in control of our lives (or at least a small portion of our lives)?
- James is calling himself a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
  - James correctly puts God and the Lord Jesus on the same level as equals.

# Salutation

## James 1:1 (Recipients of James' Letter)

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

- **The Letter is addressed to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad**
  - Since all true believers are strangers and pilgrims in this world (Phil. 3:20; I Peter 2:11), we can apply this letter to ourselves, even if it wasn't written directly to us.

# Trials

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

- Count (consider)
  - Count it all joy (an asset or benefit – an accounting term) – joy is on the plus side of the ledger
  - This is a radical attitude of counting trials in a joyful manner

# Trials

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

- What are these trials?
  - James 1 verses 2-12 refer to temptations or trials as:
    - Troubles
  - James 1 verses 12-15 refer to temptations or trials as:
    - Unholy temptations that come from within and leads to sin.
  - Examples of trials mentioned in James 1:2
    - Present day examples
    - Scriptural example = Mark 4:35-41

# Trials

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

- Trials are inevitable
  - “...when you fall into various temptations” and not ...if you fall into various temptations”

# Trials

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

- It does not require denying emotional pain
- This attitude is not natural
- This attitude results from a deliberate choice
  - We are free to make our choices, but we are not free to choose the consequences of our choices.

# Trials

- What are we going to do about them?
  - Rebel
  - Lose heart or give up under pressure.
  - Grumble and complain
  - Indulge in self-pity
  - Count it all joy!!
    - Rejoice! These problems are not enemies, bent on destroying you. They are friends which have come to aid you to develop Christian character.
- God is trying to produce Christlikeness in each of His children.
  - How often we hear a Christian say, after passing through some great crisis, “It wasn't easy to take, but I wouldn't give up the experience for anything.

# Trials

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

- We can picture faith as a precious metal which is being tried by the metal examiner (God) to see if it is genuine. The metal is subjected to the fires of persecution, sickness, suffering, or sorrow.
- **A. God is sovereign over every trial.**
- **B. God is using the trials to test our faith to produce endurance.**

# Trials

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

- When we face problems in life that God obviously isn't going to remove, we should be submissive to His will. The gifted blind hymn-writer wrote these lines as a girl of eight:
  - Oh, what a happy soul I am,  
although I cannot see!  
I am resolved that in this world  
Contented I will be.
  - How many blessings I enjoy  
That other people don't,  
To weep and sigh because I'm blind  
I cannot, and I won't!
  - *Fanny Crosby*

# Trials

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

- **We should submit to the refining process in trials: “Let endurance have its perfect result”.**
  - **“The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord” (Job 1:21). Note two things:**
    - **A. Recognize that maturity is a process, not instant perfection.**
    - **B. Submitting to the process will result in spiritual maturity.**

# Conclusions

- Christ is our example
  - Heb 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

# **“Life is but a Weaving” (the Tapestry Poem) by Corrie ten Boom**

- **“My life is but a weaving  
Between my God and me.  
I cannot choose the colors  
He weaveth steadily.**

**Of t’ times He weaveth sorrow;  
And I in foolish pride  
Forget He sees the upper  
And I the underside.**

**Not ’til the loom is silent  
And the shuttles cease to fly  
Will God unroll the canvas  
And reveal the reason why.**

**The dark threads are as needful  
In the weaver’s skillful hand  
As the threads of gold and silver  
In the pattern He has planned**

**He knows, He loves, He cares;  
Nothing this truth can dim.  
He gives the very best to those  
Who leave the choice to Him.”**

