



## A BRIEF INTRO

Who is James?

Oldest half-brother of our Lord. Brother of Jude.  
Leader of the Church in Jerusalem.

Martyred in AD 62

To whom was he writing?

Jewish believers scattered by  
the events recorded in Acts 12



# THE PRACTICE OF OUR PROFESSION: FROM TRIAL TO TESTIMONY

James 1:1-18



**How can he have such a positive attitude ?**

“Consider it pure joy when you face trials...”

“the brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position”

**Because of James' focus on what IS TO COME rather than on current situation and because of his absolute confidence that God is at work both in and through the trial**



## VSS. 2 – 4 “GOD’S GONNA USE THIS”

What do we know?

Trials come and go “whenever”

Trials are varied in nature. A severe trial to you may be ‘nothing’ to the next guy (and vice versa)

Under trial, we must listen to the voice of Truth

“Perseverance” (hupomone – Gr.) MUST finish its work

- Implies purpose

Consider 2 Cor. 12:7-10

What can we hope to gain from the trial?

Spiritual maturing.

Completeness (without lack).

Are we being faithful to give Him the broken pieces?

## VSS. 5 – 7 A PROMISE AND A 'CATCH'

In trials, don't be a hero. Ask God for wisdom and receive (along with much grace) a generous portion

The catch?

It must be a prayer of genuine faith

## VSS. 9-12

“The brother...in high position” in this context is the one who is under trial. Humility is a powerful asset!

Conversely, the one whose life is always sunshine and roses should almost be pitied.

“The crown that is eternal life” is promised to the ‘brother’ (Vss. 2 and 9) who perseveres under trial  
(Don’t face the alone! Consider Eph. 6:10-20)





VSS. 13-15

BE WARNED

**The Enemy is often present in trials.** It is not uncommon to be tempted to do evil when under the gun, but God is NOT the one tempting us to sin.

If we are 'dragged away and enticed,' it's because we wanted to be. We need to be honest about that if we hope to find rescue and redemption (1 John 1:9)





**God is also with us in trial.** He Is Greater (1 John 4:4)  
and He assures us of a way out.

A great truth often offered as a lame excuse:  
“I couldn’t help myself!” Precisely.

The child of God shouldn’t be trying to do it alone.  
We are to be letting God help us (1 Cor. 10:12-13)



VSS. 16-18

In the trial, don't be led astray. The Enemy wants us to question/accuse God, and sometimes in trials it works.

Instead, when trials come James calls us to focus on the unchanging character and nature of God.



He “does not change like shifting shadows”

Indeed, everything true of God on our best day ever is true of Him in our darkest night.

When trials come, rejoice in vs. 18.

God has not aborted His mission.

(Phil 1:6)