



Trials, Temptations and The Character of God

Part 2

10/19/14

How to respond to trials and temptations

James 1:1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad, greetings.

1. Worship

² Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

2. Trust God's process

³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

3. Envision completeness

⁴ And let endurance have *its* perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

4. Ask for wisdom

⁵ But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

⁶ But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

⁷ For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,

⁸ *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

5. Be confident in your high position

⁹ But let the brother of humble circumstances glory in his high position;

¹⁰ and *let* the rich man *glory* in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away.

¹¹ For the sun rises with a scorching wind, and withers the grass; and its flower falls off, and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away.

6. Wait patiently for your reward

¹² Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

7. Take responsibility for your thoughts

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

¹⁵ Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

8. Know that God is good

part 2

James 1

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

¹⁷ Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation, or shifting shadow.

¹⁸ In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we might be, as it were, the first fruits among His creatures.

9. Listen to God's word

¹⁹ *This* you know, my beloved brethren. But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak *and* slow to anger;

²⁰ for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

²¹ Therefore putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

10. Live God's word

²² But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;

²⁴ for *once* he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was.

²⁵ But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.

²⁶ If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his *own* heart, this man's religion is worthless.

²⁷ This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.

11. Be a part of a merciful community

2:1 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with *an attitude of* personal favoritism.

² For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes,

³ and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,"

⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?

⁵ Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court?

⁷ Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?

⁸ If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law, according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

⁹ But if you show partiality, you are committing sin *and* are convicted by the law as transgressors.

¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all.

¹¹ For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not commit murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

¹² So speak and so act, as those who are to be judged by *the* law of liberty.

¹³ For judgment *will be* merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

All Scripture is from the NASV