

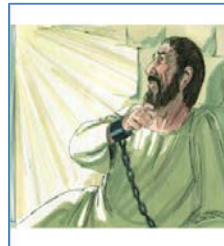
James ch.1- 'Trials & Faith, Endurance & Maturity' Stewart Patrick 3-10-21

James 1:2-5 "My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, (3) because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; (4) and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. (5) If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you." James 1:12

"Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."

1. Trials from without / outward – coming upon you (v.2-12)

- They were being persecuted, yes, but also facing 'trials of many kinds'.
- James does not say, the trial is *nothing but joy*, but to consider it *nothing but joy*. Take the long view – it is capable of being turned out for our highest good! (see Romans 8:28).
- 'endurance' – 'brave patience', - and remember, 'patience' is a fruit of the Spirit given to you, it is not something any believer can say they lack! The pattern is:



Jesus stood beside him; "Take courage Paul ..." Everything is going to work out for the best (Acts 23:11)

The Sufferings ➡ Patient Endurance ➡ Mature Confident Hope!

- 'wisdom' (v.5) – We must eat of the 'Tree of Life' - Christ, not the 'Tree of the knowledge of good & evil'. Our wisdom does not begin from the matter of ethical right & wrong. We do not start from that other tree. We start from Him; The whole question for us is one of Life. Grace is given!
- Watchman Nee - "*Nothing has done greater damage to our Christian testimony than our trying to be right, and demanding right of others... The whole principle for us is one of Cross bearing. Do I only want to be right? Or can I forgive? "Right or Wrong" is the principle of the world & religion.*

2. Trials from within – Temptation – does not from God, but out of one's own desire. Low or high, poor or rich – both will have to reckon with temptations, though their temptations may take different forms.

James 1:13-15 No one, when tempted, should say, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. But one is **tempted by one's own desire** ➡ **it gives birth to sin** ➡ **when fully matured, gives birth to death.** (Sin truly is its own punishment!). James here is thinking of some who might argue that –

because trials come from God/permitted by God, then from God comes also the temptation to sin, which is often aroused by the outward trial. No!

- Brothers & sisters in Christ, do not abort God's work in you through trials. So important that we see Him in everything, and wait for Him.