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**BIBLE STUDY**

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**“THE TRYING OF YOUR FAITH WORKETH PATIENCE”**

**James 1:1-12**

The Epistle of James was written by the half-brother of Jesus. Jesus' mother was Mary and His Father was God. James' mother was Mary and his father was Joseph. Paul called him the Lord's brother.

***Galatians 1:19 "But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother."***

There are a number of different men named James in the Bible. The first candidate is James the son of Zebedee, brother of John. But he was killed soon after the resurrection of Jesus and died in AD 44, a date which is too early for him to have written this letter. A second possibility is James the son of Alphaeus. But no early Christian tradition acknowledges him as the author. A third possibility is James, the son of Mary, possibly James the Little. Other possibilities are James, the son of Mary, James, the Less, James, the son of Alphaeus, and James the father of Jude. All of these are possibilities, but I believe the author to be the half-brother of Jesus. Though not a follower of his brother during his earthly ministry, James came to believe in Jesus after his resurrection. He was a leader in the Jerusalem church and exerted significant influence. Since James died in AD 62 or 66, his letter was written before this time. This same James was not won to Christianity, until after the resurrection of Jesus. He became the head of the church in Jerusalem, possibly because he was the brother of Jesus. Paul and James had a different view of Christianity. Paul looked at it from the mystical view, and James looked at it from the standpoint of the law. The primary difference was; Paul preached justification by faith in Jesus Christ, and James taught that we will show good works in our daily walk, if we are saved. In truth, there was no difference at all. James was just ministering to Jewish Christians, and Paul was ministering to Gentiles. James would have been trained in the Jewish religion, because his parents were Hebrews. He would have been perfect to lead the Jews who had accepted Jesus as their Saviour. The letter was actually written to Jewish Christians, which is still in character for this to be the half-brother of Jesus. The letter is even addressed to the twelve tribes of Israel. It is, however, useful to all Christians, as well as Jews. It was written before 62 A.D. which is the year believed to be the year of death for St. James.

***1:1 "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting."***

James did not mention the fact that he was the half-brother of Jesus in the flesh. He was so humbled by the fact that, he had not immediately realized who Jesus was. He, like Mary, was the family of Jesus in the flesh, but he fully realized that Jesus was his Lord. He calls himself servant, in the verse above, to show his total submission to the service of the Lord. At the time James wrote this, the twelve tribes had not returned to Israel. James, at the resurrection of the Lord, had submitted himself to not only salvation through Jesus, but had dedicated his life to His service. It is easy to understand why James did not believe Jesus to be the Messiah at first, because they were raised together as children.

***James 1:2 "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;"***

James gets right to the subject of his letter in this verse. There was much persecution in the church in this day. James just says, to face the problems that arise and grow from those problems. James speaks to them as brothers in Christ. It is difficult to see when we are facing temptations, but there is a lesson to be learned in each of them. Jesus faced every temptation when he went to the mountain and fasted forty days and nights. The main lesson to be learned in the temptation, is that God will help us face the problem. He will see us through, if we will place our trust in Him. Knowing that we are to grow through this temptation should bring us joy.

***I Corinthians 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it]."***

***James 1:3 "Knowing [this], that the trying of your faith worketh patience."***

Now we are looking at one of the benefits of temptations. Most of us are not patient at all, before we are saved. If we are to take on the likeness of Christ, then we must, also, become patient. We see a very good example of this in Job in the Old Testament. He faced great temptation and patiently waited for an answer from God. The end of the temptation was victory for him.

***James 1:4 "But let patience have [her] perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."***

When we pray, we usually want to see an instant answer to our prayer. We are not instantly transformed into that perfect Christian that we all desire to be, and our prayers are many times not answered immediately either. There is a growing process to become the person we want to be.

***Ephesians 4:13 "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:"***

When we are saved, we have just entered the path that leads to righteousness. We grow in the Lord and His righteousness as we are instructed in His Word. We then must apply the instructions that we have learned to practical living to become that full Christian. The Bible says that we must be fed milk and honey, until we grow into the mature Christian who can handle the meat of the Word. We will see the victory, if we patiently wait for it.

***James 1:5 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all [men] liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."***

Wisdom is a gift from God. Knowledge is accumulated learning. The best way to grow in the Lord, then, would be to pray that God will give you the gift of wisdom and understanding. Ask God for the Holy Spirit to be your Teacher and Guide. Then study the Word of God, and grow in the Word, and in experience. God is very willing to give good gifts to His children who ask. When we ask, we must believe that we receive, and we shall have what we ask. God does not just indiscriminatly pour out wisdom on everyone. We must pray and ask, and then we will receive it. God is not like man, that would remind you constantly that he had given you a gift. God attaches no strings to the things He gives us. He gives them to us, because He loves us.

***James 1:6 "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed."***

It is useless to pray and ask for something, if you do not believe you will get an answer to that prayer. Faith is what causes the prayer to be answered. When Jesus healed the sick, He said, your faith has made you whole.

***Mark 11:24 "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive [them], and ye shall have [them]."***

***James 1:7 "For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord."***

This is speaking of the man that wavereth. His faith is not constant. His faith is like the tree that falls over when the slightest wind comes. He says he believes, but he does not believe in his heart. The following is what Jesus said to the man who came to him for help for his son. He believed, but he wanted Jesus to help him believe even more. This type of faith is honored by the Father, because the desire of our heart is to believe. Now we see the correct thing to do, if we see that our faith is wavering.

***Mark 9:23 "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things [are] possible to him that believeth."***

***Mark 9:24 "And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief."***

***James 1:8 "A double minded man [is] unstable in all his ways."***

This is speaking of an unstable person, who cannot make up his mind. He really does not truly believe anything. His heart is not right with God.

***James 1:9 "Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:"***

You do not have to be rich, or even thought of highly in the community, to come to Christ. Christianity is for whosoever will. Brother means that he is a believer in Christ. He may have a lowly task to do here on the earth, but that has nothing to do with his position with Christ. Brothers in Christ are all the same in the sight of God. They all have the same Father. Christians are sons of God. There are no class distinctions in Christ.

***James 1:10 "But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away."***

This is really speaking of those who trust in riches. When we die, we do not take earthly riches to heaven with us. The only wealth we have in heaven, is the wealth we stored there while we were yet on the earth. The rich man and the poor man came into the world naked, and they shall not carry anything with them when they leave this world. The poor man will be brought up to the level of the rich, and the rich will be brought down to the level of the poor. Our body, that we live in here on the earth, is not our eternal body. This corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. We will be changed, made suitable for heaven. Our earthly body is like the grass; here today and gone tomorrow.

***James 1:11 "For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways."***

It is best not to put your trust in earthly possessions that pass away. We just use them for a little while on the earth, and then they pass on to someone else. Our earthly body is not made for eternity. It is just a house we dwell in here on the earth. This is not speaking of the Godly rich, but of those who have ways that cause them to be rich. This is speaking of those who are thinking, not of life eternal, but life in the here and now. The rich, who put their trust in their wealth, have no future with God.

***James 1:12 "Blessed [is] the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."***

In this life we have temptations, trials, and tribulation. It is not the temptation that ruins the man, but his attitude toward the temptation. We should willingly endure whatever temptation comes our way, like the good soldier of Christ that we profess to be. Those who live, overcoming the temptations that come, have awaiting them a crown of life.

***Revelation 2:10 "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast [some] of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."***

If we love Him, we will keep His commandments. We will stay firmly rooted in Jesus Christ our Redeemer. We will be built on the Rock that cannot be moved.

***I Corinthians 2:9 "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."***

**QUESTIONS**

1. Who was the writer of the epistle of James?
2. Why did the author speak of him as half-brother?
3. Which James was killed soon after the resurrection of Jesus?
4. When did James, the brother of Jesus, become a Christian?
5. Why was James chosen to be the head of the church in Jerusalem?
6. Why was James taught the Jewish law?
7. Who was this letter addressed to?
8. When was it written approximately?
9. Who does James call himself in the first verse?
10. Why had James not accepted Jesus as Messiah immediately?
11. What advice did James give these believers about their problems?
12. Why should we joy in temptations?
13. The trying of your faith worketh \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
14. How do we become a full Christian?
15. How can we get wisdom?
16. What is knowledge?
17. Who should be our Teacher and Guide?
18. What two things should we grow in?
19. How are we to ask for wisdom?
20. Those that waver are like what?
21. What is double-minded speaking of?
22. How are Christian brothers, rich are poor, alike?
23. What is our shortness of physical life compared to in verse 10?
24. Our earthly body is not made for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
25. Blessed [is] the man that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ temptation.