

Women of the Word

James 1:1-18 ESV

Greeting

slave or bondservant

God has authority

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: ? → *Jews scattered throughout Asia Minor*

Greetings.

James encourages his readers that trials produce maturity.

Testing of Your Faith

Jesus said this in Matt. 5:12

Count it all joy, my Brothers, when you meet

trials of various kinds, for you know that the

testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And

let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be

NIV:

perseverance

perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Q: Do I rejoice in trials as I should?

NIV: mature + complete

(then)
If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, *vs- God is wise and generous*

Trials reveal our need for wisdom. God gives wisdom to the one who asks in faith.

who gives generously to all without reproach, and

it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with *God invites us to ask*

no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave

of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For

that person must not suppose that he will receive

anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded

man, unstable in all his ways.

Q: Am I double-minded? (Jam. 3:13-18) In what areas?

Whether rich or poor, we are all fragile and fleeting.

Let the lowly Brother boast in his exaltation,

and the rich in his humiliation, because like a

HUH?

flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun

VII- Unlike us, God is eternal (see Isa. 40:6-8)

rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass;

its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will

the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

¹²Blessed is the man who remains steadfast *Not "happy," but having the approval and assistance of God himself!* under trial, for when he has stood the test he

God does not tempt. We allow ourselves to be lured and enticed into sin.

will receive the crown of life, which God has

promised to those who love him. ¹³Let no one

say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by

Gen. 3:11-12 - Adam says this

God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and

V13- God is never the source of temptation

he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴But each person is

tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own

God makes good on his promises

desire. ¹⁵Then desire when it has conceived gives

birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings

forth death.

*V14-15: wrong desires → temptations that appeal to them → sin → death
V12-14: faith → trials that test it → steadfastness → maturity*

¹⁶Do not be deceived, my beloved Brothers.

The world will lie to us about what is good and bad. The One who saved us gives us all that is good.

¹⁷Every good gift and every perfect gift is from

V16- God tells us the truth.

above, coming down from the Father of lights

V17- God gives good and perfect gifts

with whom there is no variation or shadow due

V17- God is light

to change. ¹⁸Of his own will he brought us forth

Lev. 2:14-16 - what connection?

by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of

V17- God does not change

Christ!

firstfruits of his creatures. *V18- God brought us forth of his own will*

Q: What do I wrongly believe to be a good gift that is not?

Q: What trial have I seen as a bad thing that might ultimately give me the gift of maturity?