



Faith Tested

John Richardson | 1/5/2025 | James 1:1-27

1. Responding to Trials with Joy

Read James 1:2-4. James challenges us to "consider it pure joy" when facing trials.

- How can seeing trials as opportunities for growth change the way you approach hardships?
 - Reflect on a time when you experienced spiritual growth through a difficult situation. How did God work through that season?
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2. Seeking God's Wisdom

Read James 1:5-8. James emphasizes asking God for wisdom with an undivided heart.

- What does it look like to have "undivided loyalty" to God? How can wavering faith hinder our ability to discern God's guidance?
 - How can you practically ask for and trust God's wisdom in your current season of life?
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3. Riches and Poverty

Read James 1:9-11. James describes the spiritual value of both poverty and wealth.

- How does your current perspective on money and success align with James' teaching?
 - How can you remain humble in times of abundance and hopeful in seasons of lack?
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4. Enduring Temptation

Read James 1:13-15. James explains that temptation comes from our desires, not God.

- What practical steps can you take to identify and resist temptation in your life?
 - How does understanding the progression of temptation (distraction, deception, decision, deed) empower you to avoid its trap?
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5. Recognizing God's Good Gifts

Read James 1:16-18. James highlights that every good and perfect gift comes from God.

- What "good gifts" from God do you sometimes overlook or take for granted?

- How can gratitude for God’s unchanging goodness deepen your relationship with Him?
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6. **The Power of Listening and Speech**

Read James 1:19-20. “Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.”

- Why is listening such an essential aspect of spiritual maturity?
 - How can anger hinder the righteousness God desires in you and your relationships? Share a time when listening instead of reacting changed a situation.
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7. **Living Out the Word**

Read James 1:21-25. James emphasizes being “doers” of the Word, not just hearers.

- In what areas of your life is it easy to hear God’s Word but hard to act on it? Why?
 - How can reflecting on God’s Word lead to lasting transformation, like looking into a mirror and remembering what you saw?
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8. **Authentic Spirituality**

Read James 1:26-27. James defines “pure and genuine religion” as caring for the vulnerable and avoiding worldly corruption.

- How does caring for those in need—like orphans, widows, or the marginalized—reflect true faith?
 - What steps can you take this week to engage in acts of compassion and resist worldly influences?
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9. **The Tension in Faith and Action**

James’ message reminds us that faith under tension produces growth, like a stretched rubber band.

- What areas of your life feel “stretched” right now, and how might God be using that tension for your spiritual maturity?
 - How can embracing tension in your faith lead to greater trust and obedience?
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10. **Reflecting Christ’s Example**

James teaches about living out faith through trials, wisdom, and care for others—just as Jesus did.

- How does Jesus’ response to trials and His sacrificial care for the marginalized inspire your own faith journey?
- What is one practical way you can reflect Christ’s example to those around you this week?