

## “Coming Trials”

James 1:1-11

*Four ways of persevering through trials.*

### I. Choose a joyful attitude in your trials. -v1-3

*v1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings. 2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces **endurance**.*

#### A. We are commanded to rejoice in these circumstances.

1. It is not a suggestion or an alternative option. It is a divine command to be obeyed.
2. It was first commanded by Christ for disciples who face persecution. - **Matthew 5:12**

#### B. Enter into the joyful outcome of endurance.

1. Quote: “The worth of a soldier is not known in time of peace.”

### II. Attain an understanding mind for your trials. -v4-5

*v4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. 5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

#### A. Believers need spiritual understanding to help them through their difficulties.

1. Trials drive us to God.
2. God is the source of abundant wisdom. – He is not stingy but generous in giving understanding.
3. Wisdom helps us see what God is doing and why.

### III. Forge a believing heart in the Lord -v6.

*v6 But he must 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*

*that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8 being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

#### A. Why must we forge our faith?

1. Because our eyes are seeing the contrary.
2. Because we have to unlearn unbelief and doubt.
3. Because faith must push out unbelief and doubt in God’s benevolence.

#### B. Remember the words of Solomon - **Proverbs 3:5–7**

### IV. Seek a humble spirit before the Lord.

*v9 But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high position; 10 and the rich man is to 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.*

#### A. The poor are to rejoice in their spiritual riches in Christ.

1. Jesus taught the blessing of the poor in Christ - **Matthew 5:3–5**

#### B. The rich are to rejoice in their humbling trials -v10.

1. It teaches and remind them of the temporary and inadequate nature of earthly riches.

#### C. There are great advantages to staying humble in difficulties:

1. It saves us from a bitter spirit.
2. It makes us teachable as to how God is using this for good.
3. It allows us to take our eyes off ourselves and bless others.

#### **THINK, PRAY and OBEY:**

1. Teach us how to rejoice in our trials.
2. Help us to stay humble as we trust in you with all our heart.
3. Thank you God that the Joy of the Lord is our strength.