Grow Group Study

The Epistle (Letter) of James – Chapter 1

# Introduction

The Book (letter) of James centres around the subject of faith and is divided into three areas of faith:

**a). The Test of Faith,**

**b). The Characteristics of Faith,** and

**c). The Triumph of Faith**

# Chapter 1

**1. Vs.2-4** **a).** The word *"trials"* in the Greek means testing or temptation, and seems to incorporate both meanings here. ie). Temptations that prove or test our belief and trust in God.

ex). Jesus was tested in the wilderness through temptations from Satan. (Mt.4:1)

**b).** The word “produces” in the Greek is a word that means *“to work out or reveal”* not create. It’s the same word used in Phil.2:12 that tells us to, “*work out* your own salvation with fear and trembling” (not *“work on”* your own salvation…)

**c).** How is it possible to count it all joy when we fall into these various tests against our faith, and how is patience important to our faith? (see Heb.6:12)

**2. Vs.5** Can you explain the difference between knowledge, understanding and wisdom?

**3. Vs.6-8** Our faith is tested in many various situations, leaving us with an option to either persevere and stand, or doubt and fall.

**a).** Explain what doubt is, and why it comes?

**b).** Explain the correlation between a doubtful man and the waves of the sea?

**c).** Receiving from the Lord requires faith. Comment on what happens to faith when doubt enters.

**d).** Why is a double-minded person unstable in all his/her ways?

**4. Vs.9-11** Briefly talk about putting money in its proper perspective.

**5. Vs.12** What area of faith do we need to guard in order to receive the “Crown of Life”? **Hint: Eph.2:8-9** (see Mt.10:22)

**6. Vs.13-18**

**a).** Where does temptation come from? (**See also Lk.22:31-32**)

**b).** What area of our lives does temptation work in? It’s not likely you’ll be tempted in areas where you have no desire for those things.

**c).** From temptation to spiritual death is likened unto having a baby. Let's look at the steps: **(vs.15)**

**i).** Explain the conception of sin

**ii).** Explain the birth of sin

**d). Vs.16***"Do not be deceived".* In light of **Vs.17**, what are some lies that Satan tries to deceive us with?

**7. Vs.19-20**

Another area of testing that our faith must endure is the area of controlling our temper and our tongue.

**a).** Why is faith required to control our hearing, speech and reaction?

**b).** Comment on why the temptation to be angry and talk is so strong at times.

**c).** What is the difference between the wrath of man and the wrath of God?

**8. Vs. 21-25**

James strongly exhorts us to be doers of the word and not hearers only.

**a).** How are we deceived by only being hearers and not doers?

**b).** Explain the mirror analogy?

**9.** **Vs.26-27**

**a).** What is “useless religion"?

**b).** What does it mean to “keep oneself unspotted from the world”?

**10.** How do we deal with temptation? (see Mt.4:4,7,&10; and Mt.26:41)