

Real Faith Works:  
**Faith Under Trial**

James 1:1-18

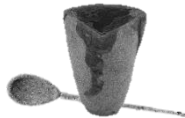


- quick intro. to the book (v.1)
  - o about<sup>1</sup>
  - o from<sup>2</sup>
  - o to<sup>3</sup>

**1. In trials, rejoice in the testing of your faith (vv. 2-4)**

- trials of life (v. 2)<sup>4</sup>
- testing of faith (vv. 3-4)<sup>5</sup>

ancient  
refiner's  
crucible



**2. In trials, ask for wisdom from God (vv. 5-8)**

- ask for wisdom (v. 5)<sup>6</sup>
- ask in faith (vv. 6-8)<sup>7</sup>

**3. In trials, look forward to your exaltation (vv. 9-12)**

- the lowly will be exalted (vv. 9, 12)



The last will be \_\_\_\_\_.

- the exalted will be brought low (vv. 10-11)

The first will be \_\_\_\_\_.

**4. In trials, trust in the Father's goodness (vv. 13-18)**

- God does not tempt us (vv. 13-15)<sup>8</sup>
- God is the good Father (vv. 16-18)<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Genesis 3:12

<sup>9</sup> Luke 11:11



**Starter Questions:**

1. Anything you want to talk about from what you've heard today?
2. How has this message helped you with trials you are facing?
3. "Mountaintops are for views and inspiration, but fruit is grown in the valleys": how has this proved true for you?
4. Draw a 3 step stair-case named TRIALS to picture how faith that perseveres leads to Christian maturity. For more thought diagramming, try Romans 5:3-4 (4 steps) and 2 Peter 1:5-7 (8 steps).
5. If wisdom is the ability to see trials God's way, how does God see them, and how wise are you?
6. As difficult and perplexing as life may be, why can you (as did Jerry Marshall) find an inner joy even when your faith is under trial?

<sup>1</sup> A central theme of genuine faith vs. bogus faith is suggested by the triply repeated mention of self-deception: 1:16; 1:22; 1:26.

<sup>2</sup> Of the 4 men named James in the NT only the last of these is almost certainly the author of this letter: Judas' Dad (Luke 6:16); Zeb's son (Acts 12:2); Alphaeus' son (Mark 3:18); and the (half) brother of Jesus (Galatians 1:19) who was a skeptic (John 7:5) turned Christian leader (1 Corinthians 15:7; Acts 21:18) – the most prominent James in the early church.

<sup>3</sup> 1 Peter 1:1

<sup>4</sup> Luke 10:30; Acts 27:41

<sup>5</sup> Genesis 22:1, 12; Proverbs 17:3

<sup>6</sup> 1 Kings 3:5

<sup>7</sup> Matthew 6:24; parable of the four soils: Matthew 13:1-23