

TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS

CORPORATE SITUATION ROOM

Joe is the production manager of the company and a good friend and right-hand man of the owner, Manny. In the last few months when Joe and Manny do their usual lunch and exchange notes on this week's sermon from church Manny has been very stressed about the current situation with his business. Joe has been able to meet every production demand from their biggest and oldest client every month and does an excellent job but now things have changed. Their client has undergone a major shift in leadership and while the production expectations remain the same the contracting and payments for services has really gone south. Now Manny has major issues with cash flow as there is not even enough in the bank account to make Friday payroll! He confides these things and more with his dear friend about their client that holds over 50% of their work. Now Joe is getting a little nervous as well and really doesn't know how to console Manny.

- Q. What Godly advice would you give Joe to be able to console Manny?
- Q. What do you think Joe could do to help in this situation?
- Q. In your opinion how much should Manny share with Joe?

WHO IS JAMES?

This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing to the "twelve tribes"—Jewish believers scattered abroad. Greetings! James 1:1 NLT

Most scholars believe James was written by Jesus brother James, who became the leader (bishop) of the church in Jerusalem. Matthew's Gospel records - *He returned to Nazareth, his hometown. When he taught there in the synagogue, everyone was amazed and said, "Where does he get this wisdom and the power to do miracles?" Then they scoffed, "He's just the carpenter's son, and we know Mary, his mother, and his brothers—James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas. All his sisters live right here among us. Where did he learn all these things?" And they were deeply offended and refused to believe in him. Then Jesus told them, "A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his own family." Matthew 13:54-57 NLT*

James was transformed after the resurrection. Can you relate to James with a transformed life?

JAMES 1:1-18

¹James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. ²Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

⁹Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. ¹⁰But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wildflower. ¹¹For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich will fade away even while they go about their business.

¹²Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

¹³When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

¹⁶Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

v. 2 What has been an experience at work where you were joyful when going through a trial?

What can take our joy at work in the trials we go through?

What is the definition of Joy and Happiness? How are they the same, different?



- v. 3** What work does perseverance do?
In what ways do trials build character? Why not knowledge or love or peace or faith
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- v. 5-8** Why do we need to ask for Wisdom? Why don't we naturally have it?
What view of God would you have if you have doubt as you go through a trial?
What do unstable people rely on?
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- v. 9-11** Why do believers who are poor have an advantage over the Rich when going through trials?
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- v. 12** What reward is there for those who persevere? What is the crown of life?
Do you know someone who has persevered in business as a believer? What do you think is their reward?
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- v. 13-18** What is the progression of temptation? Can you describe a time at work when you have gone down this path? How did it change you?