

FAITH AND TRIALS

(06/28/2020; James 1:1-12; Steve Thiel; Christ Proclamation Church)

Sermon Theme: True faith in Christ works itself out in every area of life, even in midst of difficulties, because God uses trials in order to strengthen our faith in Christ. True believers ask God for divine wisdom and a godly perspective in order to remain steadfast in trials until they receive the crown of eternal life!

I. THE REASON FOR TRIALS – (James 1:1-4)

- A. The Greeting – (James 1:1)

- B. The Irrational Command – (James 1:2)

- C. The Rationale for the Command– (James 1:3-4)
 - 1. Trials Produce Steadfastness
 - 2. Steadfastness Results in Perfection

II. THE REALITY OF TRIALS – (James 1:5-11)

- A. The Need for God’s Wisdom – (James 1:5-8)
 - 1. The Opportunity To Ask God
 - 2. The Need To Ask God in Faith

- B. The Need for God’s Perspective – (James 1:9-11)
 - 1. The Poor Christian Who Is Rich
 - 2. The Rich Christian Who Is Poor

III. THE REWARD OF TRIALS – (James 1:12)

- A. The Blessing of Perseverance – (James 1:12a)

- B. The Promise of Perseverance – (James 1:12b)

A FAITH THAT WORKS

(Summary of James; Summer 2020; Christ Proclamation Church; Steve Thiel)

Background of James (Who wrote it, when, where, and to whom?)

The book appears to be written by James, the half-brother of Jesus and leader of the Jerusalem church (Acts 15:13-21) sometime before the Jerusalem Council; written to Jewish believers dispersed from Jerusalem due to persecution (Acts 8:1-4, 11:19).

Occasion of James (What prompted James to write this letter?)

The persecution and displacement of Jewish believers seems to have caused a host of problems including impartiality between rich and poor and general worldliness.

Purpose of James (What did James hope to accomplish?)

The purpose of James’ letter is to encourage believers to persevere in the midst of trials and to clarify that true faith doesn’t just hear but practices the Word of God.

Theme of James (What is the letter about?)

True faith in Christ works itself out in every area of life, even in midst of trials, persevering in actions, attitudes, speech and relationships, causing believers to not only hear the Word, but practice the Word, for their good and God’s eternal glory!

Outline of James

I. True Faith Understands Trials (1:1-27)

- A. Divine Purpose of Trials (1:1-12)
- B. General Godliness in Trials (1:13-25)
 - 1. Not blaming God (1:13-18)
 - 2. But listening to God (1:19-25)
- C. Summary of Godliness in Trials (1:26-27)

II. True Faith Works in Trials (2:1-4:10)

- A. Love Brethren Impartially (2:1-26)
 - 1. Sin of partiality (2:1-13)
 - 2. Righteousness of a faith that works (2:14-26)
- B. Bridle Tongue Consistently (3:1-18)
 - 1. Sin of evil speech (3:1-12)
 - 2. Righteousness of heavenly wisdom (3:13-18)
- C. Reject Worldliness Completely (4:1-10)
 - 1. Sin of worldliness (4:1-5)
 - 2. Righteousness of true humility (4:6-10)

III. True Faith Perseveres in Trials (4:11-5:20)

- A. Practices of True Faith (4:11-5:12)
 - 1. Not speaking evil against one another (4:11-12)
 - 2. Not presuming on the future (4:13-17)
 - 3. Not oppressing one another (5:1-6)
 - 4. Not being impatient with one another (5:7-11)
 - 5. Not lying to one another (5:12)
- B. Priorities of True Faith (5:13-20)
 - 1. Pray fervently when suffering (5:13a)
 - 2. Sing praises when cheerful (5:13b)
 - 3. Call elders when spiritually sick (5:14-20)