

"Eight Things to Do When Trials Take Hold of You"

James 1:1-18

Pastor Bob Brandhagen

The Purpose: To teach us the eight commands of life lived in the midst of trials.

*I. Introducing James!*

1:1

**James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.**

How about you? Are you like James, a servant—owned by Jesus, controlled by Jesus, subservient to Jesus?

If you are not "a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ," then know that you are dead (Eph 2:1), a child of wrath (Eph 2:3), condemned already (John 3:18), with God's wrath remaining on you (John 3:36). Your estate is miserable indeed. Become "a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ" TODAY!

*II. Take Joy in the Process of Trials*

1:2-4

Command 1—<sup>2</sup>**Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup>because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.**

Command 2—<sup>4</sup>**Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.**

*III. Pray Without a Doubt; If You Do Doubt, Don't Expect Any Gift from God*

1:5-8

<sup>5</sup>**If any of you lacks wisdom, you should**

Command 3—**ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.** <sup>6</sup>**But when you**

Command 4—**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.** <sup>7</sup>**That person**

Command 5—**should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.** <sup>8</sup>**Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.**

*IV. Know What to Be Proud About*

1:9-11

<sup>9</sup>**Believers in humble circumstances ought to**

Command 6—**take pride in their high position.** <sup>10</sup>**But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower.** <sup>11</sup>**For 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.**

*V. Stand the Test, Be Blest with a Crown & Don't Say God Tempts You*

1:12-15

<sup>12</sup>**Blessed 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.** <sup>13</sup>**When tempted,**

Command 7—**no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;** <sup>14</sup>**but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.** <sup>15</sup>**Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.**

*VI. Don't Be Deceived About the Source*

1:16-17a

Command 8—<sup>16</sup>**Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.** <sup>17</sup>**Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down**

*VII. Our God is a Bright, Unchanging, Choosing Creator!*

1:17b-18

**from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.** <sup>18</sup>**He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.**

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The Sermon-in-a-Sentence: Obey these eight commands and you will navigate life's maze of trials with joy and wisdom.

The Big Story: Wherever you read "brothers and sisters . . . you . . . the one . . . believers . . . no one . . . each person," that's you!

The Big Question: Will I actively heed James' commands and wisdom on obtaining wisdom in the midst of trials?

The Gospel: Good news! Jesus died, was buried, rose, appeared, and will come again! See 1 Cor 15:1-8. Remember the F.A.C.T.O.R. Repent and believe (Acts 20:21) TODAY!

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