

Faith Under Pressure

James 1:1, NKJV

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

1. The Purpose of Trials (1:1-12)

James 1:2, NKJV

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

James 1:3, NKJV

knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

James 1:4, NKJV

Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:5, NKJV

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

James 1:6, NKJV

But 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.

James 1:7, NKJV

That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

James 1:8, NKJV

Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

James 1:9, NKJV

Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position.

James 1:10, NKJV

But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower.

James 1:11, NKJV

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.

James 1:12, NKJV

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.

2. The Problem of Temptation (1:13-18)

James 1:13, NKJV

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

James 1:14, NKJV

but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.

James 1:15, NKJV

Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

James 1:16, NKJV

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.

James 1:17, NKJV

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1:18, NKJV

He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

3. The Practice of the Word (1:19-27)

James 1:19, NKJV

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,

James 1:20, NKJV

because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

James 1:21, NKJV

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

James 1:22, NKJV

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 1:23-24, NKJV

Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

James 1:25, NKJV

But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it— not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

James 1:26, NKJV

Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.

James 1:27, NKJV

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.