



Redeeming Notes

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June 6, 2004

Living Out a Faith That Works
"Trials & Temptations" - Part 1
James 1:1-11

(v. 1) The twelve "dispersed" tribes

- Apostle Paul's work – to the Gentiles
- James' work and ministry – to his own people (Jews)
- "Twelve Tribes" – historical language of those under the Old Testament covenant.

(vv. 2-4) Character development through life's problem's (REJOICE!)

- Joy – pleasure when progress toward becoming like Christ is being made.
- Trials – implication is of external forces causing plight.

(v. 5) Wisdom; the great gift there for the taking! (REFLECT!)

- Common perception:
Wisdom = knowledge
- Spiritual perception:
Applying truth to life amidst trials.

(vv. 6-8) Confidence when asking (RELAX!)

- "Believe" (faith) means confidence when we ask through prayer.
- "Double-Minded" – ultimately means a divided heart.

(vv. 9-11) The "Dandelion Factor"

- Pervading idea/thought: We are mortal beings and material wealth does nothing for our soul.

James' three-fold approach to Life's Problem's:

- 1) Rejoice! (vv. 2-4)
- 2) Reflect! (v. 5)
- 3) Relax! (v. 6-11)

READING PLAN: *The book of James is intricately connected to the teaching of Jesus unlike any book in the New Testament. Meditate deeply on these connections from this week's teaching, asking yourself 1) What does it say? 2) What is it directly saying to me? 3) How can I apply it in my life?*

Monday – James 1:2; Matthew 5:10-12

Tuesday – James 1:4; Matthew 5:48

Wednesday – James 1:5; Matthew 7:7-11

Thursday – James 1:6; Matthew 21:21

Friday – James 1:1-18

FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

- 1) Share why James says to "consider it pure joy" when you encounter problems. What assurance did James have about the results that would come from these trials in life (vs. 3, 4)?
- 2) What promise does God offer those who ask for His wisdom? Discuss any conditions that might be attached to this promise.
- 3) Most of the time we don't understand why problems come our way or what their purpose could be. In verse 5, how does James encourage us? How can these words help us when we find ourselves in circumstances that don't make sense to us?
- 4) Based on the reflection of the "double-minded" person, why do you think this is so offensive to God?
- 5) James urges three godly responses to problems: Rejoice, Reflect, Relax. Which of these is the most difficult for you when you are facing a problem? Why?