

Lesson Two:

Transforming Faith

The Epistle of James
A Find-Out-for-Yourself Bible Study
for Women

With Elizabeth Rice Handford

© 1984,2011 Elizabeth Rice Handford
Greenville SC 29615

Joyful Christian Ministries
P O Box 90028
Chattanooga TN 37412
1-800-756-9385 1-423-978-1776
www.JoyfulChristianMinistries.org

Faith That Transforms . . .

2 *When Things Go Wrong*

1. Please read James 1:1-12. To whom is the book of James written? (James 1:1) _____
Why were they "scattered abroad"? (Acts 8:1) _____
How do you know James is written to Christians? (1:2; Matt. 23:8) _____

"Temptation" in verses 2 and 12 is a Greek word meaning "testing; trial." "Tempted" in verses 13 and 14 is a Greek word meaning "encouraging someone to do wrong."

2. How should we feel when we have many kinds of trouble? (James 1:2) _____
Harder to remember: how much joy? (1:2) _____
But how do we often feel in trouble? _____
What truth makes it so we can be glad for trouble? (1:3) _____
How can we make ineffective in our lives the trouble we are sure to experience? (1:4; Hebrews 12:15) _____
But what result does God intend our trials to accomplish in our lives? _____

Do you want to be holy, really holy, not just acting right on the outside, but actually delighting to do right? This is what God promises to us when we've been purified by testings and trials—we'll be complete, whole, not lacking anything.

"But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10 NKJV)

3. Almost any problem we face is bearable if we are sure we know what God wants us to do about it. If we lack wisdom, what ought we do? (James 1:5)

_____ If we ask, what will happen? (1:5) _____

_____ How much wisdom does God promise to give? (1:5) _____

_____ When we ask, what will God *not* do? _____

_____ ("Upbraid" means "to reprove sharply.") But what attitude do we need to have? (1:6)

_____ without _____ because _____

_____ What effect does a lack of faith have on our answers to prayer? (1:7) _____

_____ How does Hebrews 11:6 say this? _____

Since we are commanded to trust God, how can we have the faith He requires?

◆ *By reading His Word, where we can see His*

wonderful faithfulness through the centuries.

◆ *By remembering His faithfulness in our own lives, how again and again He has kept His promises.*

◆ *By putting His promise to the test, by asking for what we need if it is His will, and experiencing His answers to our prayers.*

4. What is the result of being double-minded, wanting both spiritual and worldly goals at the same time? (1:8) _____

_____ Why? (Gal. 5:17,18; Amos 3:3) _____

A thought to ponder: how many of the frustrations I feel could be traced to my being double-minded, wanting worldly and heavenly pleasures at the same time?

God does not answer the prayer of a double-minded person, not because He does not want to, but because of His loving kindness. If I want two things mutually exclusive and conflicting, there is no way God could give them both to me.

4. What should a person of "low degree" rejoice in? (1:9) _____ What should a rich man rejoice in? (1:10) _____

Why? (1:10) _____
(Rejoice in loss of riches? Yes! Because then he will

understand salvation is all of grace, that nothing, nothing! can earn salvation for us. What should this teach us about our temptation to covet money?

_____ If you endure testing, what reward will you receive? (1:12)

_____ To whom does the Lord promise this crown? (1:12) _____

What is the relationship between loving Christ and enduring trials? (Hebrews 11:24-26; 12:12,13)

When things go wrong, we can be sure that our loving Heavenly Father has permitted them to "go wrong" in order to accomplish something precious and important in our lives. There is a wonderful crown of life awaiting those who endure His testing with joy and faith.

To download free of charge Lesson Three in

Transforming Faith:

The Epistle of James,

a Find-Out-For-Yourself Bible Study

by Elizabeth Rice Handford, go to

www.JoyfulChristianMinistries.org