

James Sermon Notes #4



Contextual Thoughts: (Take some time with these)

1. What would have happened if they had not received this letter?
➤ 'Struggled through the struggle'? **Isn't that what people do with closed bibles?**
2. Does this letter 'remove' hardships? **No, it instructs us thru them.**
3. Where would they have ended up...choosing not to READ the letter?
➤ Churches: weak – frail – running – struggling – confused -bickering...

Context: If James is being written to a Jewish Church audience **circ. A.D. 44:**

Why are they 'scattered'? What were they going through?

1. This is only **14 yrs** after Pentecost: **Acts 2:5-12** (how long do 'fads' last?)
2. Saul's Persecutions further 'dispersed' them – **Acts 8**
3. There had been a war between Herod (Israel) & Nabatea King - **AD 36**
4. James himself is writing out of His OWN testing – **Acts 12:1-4**

In Hardship: Come TOGETHER as THE Church

1. *'My Brethern'* – Is this 'Plural or Singular'? - **Independence** is defeating in trials

In Hardship: Lead with 'Calm Delight'

[Future **Messianic** Kingdom in view]

2. *'count it all joy'* – 'Lead with 'calm delight'
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 - **'count'** - ἡγέομαι **hēgēōmai**, *hayg-eh'-om-ahee*; to *lead*, i.e. *command* (with official authority)
 - **'joy'** - χαρά **chara**, *khar-ah'*; *cheerfulness*, i.e. *calm delight* [like a hungry man]
3. *'when you fall into various 'putting to proofs'*- Testing of Faith – Trust – Conv.
 - **'trials'** - πειρασμός **pēirasmōs**, *pi-ras-mos'*; a **putting to proof**

In Hardship: Live 'This Life' ...for 'The Next'

4. [Abs.] knowing that the testing of your faith 'works out' hopeful endurance'
 - **'faith'** - πίστις **pistis**, *pis'-tis*; *persuasion*, i.e. *credence*; *mor. conviction* (of *religious* truth, or the truthfulness of God)
 - **'produces'** - κατεργάζομαι **katērgazōmai**, *kat-er-gad'-zom-ahee*; to *work fully*, i.e. *accomplish*; by impl. to *finish, fashion*
 - **'patience'** - ὑπομονή **hupōmōnē**, *hoop-om-on-ay'*; cheerful (or hopeful) *endurance, constancy*

James reminds them what Jesus Preached (Inheritance): **Mt. 10:16-23...32-34**

So what does God **COMMAND** during 'My' Present Day – *testing of faith?*