



HOW A BELIEVER SHOULD RESPOND TO ADVERSITY

GUIDANCE FROM THE BOOK OF JAMES

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- Our fears can be conquered through genuine Faith, hope and love (Psalm 56:3–4; Isaiah 26:3–4; Philippians 4:6–7; 1 Peter 1:3–5; 5:6–7; 1 John 4:18–19; Heb. 11:1–12:3)
- The book of James provides much valuable & practical instruction on how to respond to adversity ...

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WITH AN INFORMED PERSPECTIVE (1:2-12)



- **COUNT** - 1:2 “count it all joy when you fall into various trials,” — to consider, deem, account, think (Thayer)
- **KNOW** - 1:3 “knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.” — to know, understand, perceive - (Thayer) -
- **LET** - 1:4 “But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete,” — to hold one's self to a thing, - (Thayer)
- **ASK FOR WISDOM** - 1:5-8 “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, ...⁶But let him ask in faith, ...”

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WITH AN INFORMED PERSPECTIVE (1:2-20)



- **TRIALS ARE TEMPORARY** - 1:9-11
“because as a flower of the field he will pass away.” — Earthly wealth & pursuits perish.
- **ENDURANCE RESULTS IN VICTORY** - 1:12 “he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” (Rom. 8:17,18,28; 1 Pet. 1:3-9)
- **DON'T BLAME GOD** - 1:13-20 “for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. ... ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, ... ¹⁹ be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;”

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BY BEING DOERS OF THE WORD (1:21-3:12)



- **MEEKLY RECEIVE THE WORD** - 1:21 - “receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”
- **GUARD AGAINST DECEPTION** - 1:22 “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” (Matt. 7:21–28; Luke 6:46–49; Rom. 2:13)
- **MUST CONTINUE TO ENSURE BLESSING** - 1:25 “he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, ... a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” (2 Pet. 1:5-10)

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BY BEING DOERS OF THE WORD (1:21-3:12)



- **PRACTICE PURE & UNDEFILED RELIGION** - 1:26,27- “²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.” (Matt. 25:34–36)
- **HOLDING THE FAITH WITHOUT PARTIALITY** - 2:1-13 “do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with partiality. ... ⁸ ... “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” ... ¹³ ... Mercy triumphs over judgment.” (Jno. 7:24; Ro. 14:3, 4, 10–13)

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BY BEING DOERS OF THE WORD (1:21-3:12)



■ **WITH A FAITH THAT WORKS** -
2:14-26 “¹⁴if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? ...
¹⁷ Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... ²² ... by works faith was made perfect? ... ²⁴ You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.”

■ **BY BRIDLING OUR TONGUE** -
3:1-12 “² ...If anyone does not stumble in word, he *is* a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. ...⁶ And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity... defiles the whole body,”

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WITH WISDOM FROM ABOVE (3:13-18)



■ **GOOD CONDUCT** - 3:13 ¹³ ... Let him show by good conduct *that* his works *are done* in the meekness of wisdom."

■ **REJECT EARTHLY WISDOM** - 3:14-16 ¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there."

■ **BEAR FRUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS** - 3:17,18 ¹⁷ ... pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy."

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DRAW NEAR TO GOD (4:1-12)



- **FORSAKE THE WORLD** - 4:1-5 "4 ... Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."
- **HUMBLY SUBMIT TO GOD** - 4:6,7,10 "6 "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble. 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."
- **DO RIGHT, BE LOYAL TO GOD** - 4:8 "8 ... Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded."
- **MOURN OVER SIN** - 4:9 "9 your laughter be turned to mourning ..."

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TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TODAY (4:13-17)



- **TOMORROW IS UNCERTAIN** - 4:14
"... ¹⁴ whereas you do not know what *will* happen tomorrow."
- **LIFE IS REALLY SHORT** - 4:14 "¹⁴ "For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away."
- **PLAN WITHIN GOD'S WILL** - 4:15
"¹⁵ ... you *ought* to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."
- **O.A.=R** - 4:17 "¹⁷ ... to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin."

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BE PATIENT / DON'T COMPLAIN (5:1-12)



- **DO NOT ENVY THE WEALTHY** - 5:1-6 "... ¹ Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! ² Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. ..."
- **BE PATIENT & BE FIRMLY FIXED** - 5:7,8 "⁸ ... be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand."
- **REMEMBER JOB** - 5:9-11 "¹¹ ... You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end *intended by* the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful."

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EFFECTIVE, FERVENT PRAYER (5:13-20)



- **SEEK GOD'S SUPPORT** - 5:13 "13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray."
- **SEEK SUPPORT FROM ELDERS** - 5:14 "14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ..."
- **THE PRAYER OF FAITH WILL SUSTAIN THE WEAK** - 5:15 "15 ... And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up." (Ps. 50:14, 15; Mat. 21:21, 22; 1 Th. 5:17; Hebrews 5:7)

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EFFECTIVE, FERVENT PRAYER (5:13-20)



- **ACKNOWLEDGE SIN & SEEK FORGIVENESS** - 5:15,16“¹⁵ ... if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed ...”
- **GOD HEARS THE RIGHTEOUS** - 5:16“¹⁶ ... The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” (John 9:3 | 0
- **SEEK TO RESTORE THE STRAYING** - 5:19,20 “¹⁹ ... he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death” (Matt. 18:15; Gal. 6:1)



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KNOWLEDGE

OBEDIENCE

WISDOM

HUMILITY

TODAY O.A.=R

PATIENCEE

PRAYER

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**This world can be
(is) cruel & harsh**

**Do NOT attempt
to face this world
without JESUS**

**(John 8:24; Luke 13:3,5;
Acts 2:38)**





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1 Peter 4:12–19 (NKJV)

¹² Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

1 Peter 4:12–19 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. ¹⁷ For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ Now “*If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?*” ¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.