

“James: Authentic Christianity (1) – Complete through Tests” (1:1-4)

Authentic Christianity – Consistency in Belief and Living

Emphasis... Not on being Perfect, but about being Authentic...

For those who *Believe*, the *Gospel of God* is *Powerful* to Save, and to Transform

I. Introduction

A. *Author* (1:1a): *James* – the half brother of the *Lord* (Cf. Luke 2:7; Matt 13:55)

1. From *Unbelief* to *Faith* to become one of the *Pillars* of the *Jerusalem Church* (Mark 3:21; John 7:5; 1 Cor 15:7; Gal 1:19, 2:9; Acts 12:17; 15:13-21; 21:18)
2. Humility: “A *Servant* of *God* and of the *Lord Jesus Christ*”

God’s Servant does not need “Status”, nor have to be *Autocratic* to be *Authoritative*!

B. *The Recipients*: The *Scattered Jewish Believers*

Symbolism is *Jewish*, but the *Message* is Universal and Timeless

II. The Theme: 2-fold Purpose... *Encouragement* leading to Spiritual Maturity

A. *Encouragement* in *Suffering* and *Trials* (1:2)

1. *Trials* (*peirasmos*): *Suffering Adversity*, *Affliction* and *Trouble*

Trials serve to *Test* or *Prove* one’s *Character*, *Faith* and *Holiness*

2. Maintain the *Right Attitude* of *Pure Joy* in *Suffering*

Trials are for the *Purpose* of Approval

B. *Encouragement* of *Faith* in *Trials* (1:3-4): the *Benefits* of *Trials*

1. *Testing* through the *Trials* of *Faith* produces the *Quality* of *Perseverance*
2. *Perseverance* in *Trials* of *Faith* produces a *Mature Believer Balanced* in his *Spiritual Life*

⇒ “*Finish*” and “*Mature*” (*teleioi*): *Goal*, an *Objective*

⇒ “*Complete*” (*holokleroi*: *holos*, “whole”, and *kleros*, “part”): *Entirety*, every part

Reflection: Parallel between Hebrews and James

Original readers: *Jewish Believers* under *Severe Persecution*;
Exhortation to *Believers* to *Mature*, and to *Persevere* in *Faith*

Jireh: As we continue the task of building a *Vibrant Multi-Ethnic Ministry*...

Let’s *Persevere* in *Faith*!

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