

## Getting to Grips with .....



# Faith - that is real !

## James Chapter 1:1-7

*<sup>1</sup>James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.*

*<sup>2</sup>Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup>because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. <sup>4</sup>Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup>If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup>But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup>he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.*

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## “*Consider it pure joy.....*”

We **consider** everything in our **minds**.

*Consider – to think about, to weigh up, to dwell on...*

The mind informs the spirit.

What is **my** tendency?

How do I think ?

What informs my thinking (considering)?

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—**think** about such things.*

Philippians 4:8

*“For as he thinks within himself, so he is.”*

Proverbs 23:7 NASB

## “*whenever you face trials of many kinds.*”

Whenever .....??

Trials.... ??

MANY kinds.... ???

Pure JOY ??

Is this **my** reaction?

What do I tend to do in these situations?

Rejoice in them – praise God in them?

...or plummet in my heart, mind & spirit?

Or something in between?

What possible purpose could there be for God to allow me to go through trials of many kinds?

***“<sup>3</sup>because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.”***

Do I know this?

Do I **allow** this process to happen?

My faith is to be tested to develop perseverance?  
– that sounds like it could be tough !

“Perseverance” - *hupomeneia* (Gk)  
.....means ‘stick-ability’!

What does perseverance actually do?

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***“<sup>4</sup>Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”***

Developing “stickability” is a process from God **because** we are called to be....

1. **Mature** – means “to get to the end of something”
2. **Complete** – means “well-rounded” not “uncompleted” people
3. **Not lacking anything** – *possessing everything for life and godliness*

**Deficient in nothing!**

The reason that we have these difficulties/challenges/trials is not that it is negative, or crush us or even punish us - but so that we can see very positively where we have **overcome** in the power of Jesus.

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***“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”***

Wisdom from God – we need it

*“Wisdom – Don’t live life without it !”*

God is **generous** with wisdom

Ask! Do I ask?

However.....

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***“But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.”***

When we ask we must believe and not doubt !

Look at the effect of doubting.....

***“like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind”***

The wave is not under its own control – it is at the mercy of the wind.  
The wave develops momentum and power.. and can be destructive !  
This is like the effect of UNBELIEF !

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***“That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; she is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.”***

God is careful where He puts wisdom!

Double-minded-ness means that a person is...

- Unstable...
  - Unreliable
    - Un-able
      - Non-stick!
        - Immature
        - Incomplete
          - In lack

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*“Deficient in nothing ? How does that come to be? Once you have trusted God in many situations and you have discovered His resources. And once you have discovered His resources, you know that you possess all things in Christ. And once you know that when you possess all things in Christ, you can do all things in Him who strengthens you.*

*To learn that, in that it is just not out of a Bible text, but it is to walk into life with God - and put it into practice.*

*‘Don’t only be hearers of the word but be doers of the same.’*

*My aim in life is to see people filled out with God, understanding the resources and power of God in their lives and being well-rounded and deficient in nothing!”*

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*“We are, today, in a state where we need a lot more than the gift of tongues to prove that we are Charismatic Christians.*

*You will get that as a bonus to being baptised in the Holy Spirit.*

*But it’s time that we had **wisdom** and **knowledge** and **insight** and all the other tremendous things that go for **depth** in the kingdom.*

*God’s people all around this nation and abroad today are waiting for that signal. They are fed up with trivialities and superficialities and all the other ‘alites’ !*

*They want **depth** and **reality** in the power of God, and they will look to men and women who speak it, and live it, and who can demonstrate from their experience – that they have proved it with God in their lives.”*

Bob Gordon

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*<sup>12</sup>Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.*

James 1:12

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