

“Living Our Faith in Our Trials”

James 1:1-27

Sunday, October 2, 2016

Introduction: A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. We have all heard that said and nowhere is it truer than when it comes to the Bible. Reading the Bible with absolutely no knowledge of the author, the recipients, and the situation is not wise. You do not have to go to seminary to know something about each book in the Bible. You can “google” and learn a lot, and some of it will be correct!

Text: James chapter 1

- James was the oldest half-brother of Jesus (Mark 6:13).
- James did not believe his brother was the Messiah (John 7:5) until after the Resurrection (1 Cor. 15:7).

Illustration: The skeptic became the servant. The power of the gospel changes lives. When James saw Jesus after the Resurrection, it changed his life. The gospel does that.

Illustration: This is happening over the world today. The number of Muslims switching their belief from Mohammad to Christ has skyrocketed. From zero in 1960 to the present, 16 million Muslims worldwide have become Christians. In the United States, roughly 470,000 have left Islam and become Christians.

- There are 1.6 billion Muslims in the world.
- This is roughly 23% of the global population.
- It is estimated that Muslims make-up less than 1% of the United States adult population. About 2.75 million Muslims of all ages live in the United States.

Like Muslims becoming Christians, Jews becoming Christians was a huge thing and still is. The trials they went through were unbelievable. This is one reason James

wrote to encourage them as they went through trials. The principles that applied to them also apply to us in our times of trials.

1. Every believer has some measure of faith.

- The Bible is very clear that every believer has some measure of faith (Romans 12:3).
- Your faith may be “mustard seed” faith, but you have a measure of faith.
- The correct response of faith is how we are saved.
- “For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).
- Your response to God’s grace is how you are saved.
- Paul’s words to the Philippian jailor were, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31).

Application: When you are going through a trial or trails, your response is how your faith is developed. In is in your trials that your faith will develop.

2. Develop your faith during your trials.

- James mentions four ways you develop your faith.

1. You develop your faith by guarding your tongue (1:19-20).

- Guard against blaming God with your words (1:13).
- Many times we are responsible for our trials (1:14-16).

Illustration: This is a good example of taking a verse out of context and using it to teach a truth from the text rather than teach the truth of the text.

- 2. You develop your faith by cleansing your heart (1:21a).**
- 3. You develop your faith by receiving God's Word (1:21b).**
- 4. You develop your faith by being a doer of the Word (1:22).**

Application: When we are going through trials, these four things will not be on our "radar screens." We are busy talking to people about our trial. We do not think about the spiritual condition of our heart. With a trial on our mind, we do not think about reading and receiving God's Word. We are busy trying to do something about our trial and think little if anything about doing God's Word.

Conclusion. When you are going through a trial, it is not the measure of your faith it is the object of your faith that matters. With Jesus, you can get through whatever comes your way.