



INTRODUCTION

Our hearts long for authenticity and genuineness. We might be able to identify counterfeit bills, forged documents, imitation watches, and knock-off purses through careful examination, but how do we discern between genuine and counterfeit faith? The book of James gives us a series of tests to authenticate and identify Real Faith.

BACKGROUND

- **Author** – James, known as “James the _____”
- **Audience** – Jewish believers who have been dispersed due to _____ for their faith
- **Aim** – Real Faith demonstrates itself through godly _____.

WHEN? THE _____ OF TRIALS (1:2)

- 1. Trials are a definite _____ (1:2a).**
Trials are inevitability, universality, and unavoidable. Difficulties in life are ordinary human experience. Trials do not discriminate; they descend upon Christian and non-Christian alike, the rich and the poor.
- 2. Trials have different _____ (1:2b).**
Trials come in a variety pack. We all alike face trials, but not all our trials are alike. No matter how frequent or frustrating, epic and life changing, whether small or big, major or minor, we do well to remember that God’s grace is sufficient for every trial, whatever its form (II Cor. 12:9).

WHY? THE _____ FOR TRIALS (1:3-4, 12)

- 1. Trials present _____ of real faith (1:3a).**
Someone has said, “a faith that cannot be tested cannot be trusted”. Your trial is God’s means to prove that your faith is genuine. He has entrusted you with a test of authenticity and genuineness. Real faith stands the crucibles of life.
- 2. Trials promote _____ of real faith (1:3b).**
This is steadfastness, perseverance, and brave endurance. A tenacity of spirit which hold up under pressure while awaiting God’s time for dismissal of the test or His reward.
- 3. Trials propel _____ of real faith (1:4).**

This is not sinlessness but spiritual maturity. God’s purpose in bringing trials into our lives is to grow us up into a spiritually mature believer. Often the times of greatest spiritual growth take place in the midst of great difficulty.

4. Trials provide _____ of real faith (1:12).

When our faith is tested and found genuine, when we are strengthened and stretch through trials, and when we “grow up” in Christ there is a heavenly reward that awaits us. It is the “crown of life” given to those who endure temptation.

HOW? THE _____ TO TRIALS (1:2-8)

- 1. Real faith responds by _____ with an attitude of joy (1:2).**
The attitude of joy is to lead our thinking in the midst of trials. Joy has been defined as “a deep seated confidence that God knows what He is doing and the results will be for His glory and our good.”
- 2. Real faith responds by _____ with an understanding mind (1:3).**
The believer knows God’s purpose in testing is to bring about spiritual endurance and maturity, so he must choose to trust and obey God during the trial. Weirsbe states, “God always tests us to bring out our best; Satan tempts us to bring out our worst. God fulfills His purposes as we trust Him. There is no substitute for an understanding mind.”
- 3. Real faith responds by _____ with a surrendered will (1:4).**
James reminds readers that it is their continual duty to allow the trial to finish its work to achieve its intended goal. Don’t interrupt the chain of events, but surrender your will to God’s will, He is working through the trial to further conform you into the image Christ.
- 4. Real faith responds by _____ with a believing heart (1:5).**
Wisdom is seeing life from God’s point of view. Asking God for wisdom in the midst of trials should not be our last resort, it should be our first response. In the midst of trials, don’t wring your hands, bend your knees. There is one condition for receiving this gift of wisdom, we must ask in faith. Someone has well said, “Pray believing, and you’ll receive. Pray in doubt, and you’ll do without.”

CONCLUSION

Trials are a reality of life. As a believer, we may not know what tomorrow holds, but we know the One who holds tomorrow. In the midst of trials, always remember that God is good and desires your best for His glory. He has allowed your faith to be tested to demonstrate its genuineness. Through the trial he is working into your life spiritual endurance and maturity. God has promised to give wisdom during trials when we ask in unwavering faith. May God help us to respond with a joyful attitude, an understanding mind, a surrendered will, and a believing heart as we anticipate the “crown of life” promised to those that love Him. Real faith endures trials.



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