



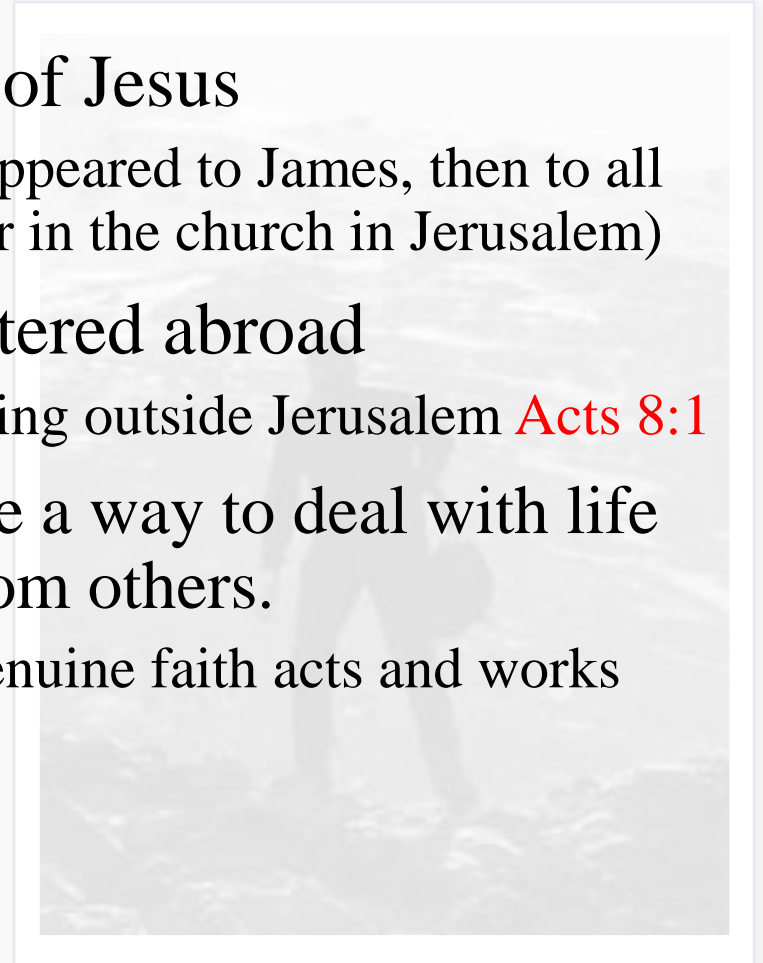
How Faith Reacts to Trials

James 1:1-12

Author and Purpose

1 James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.

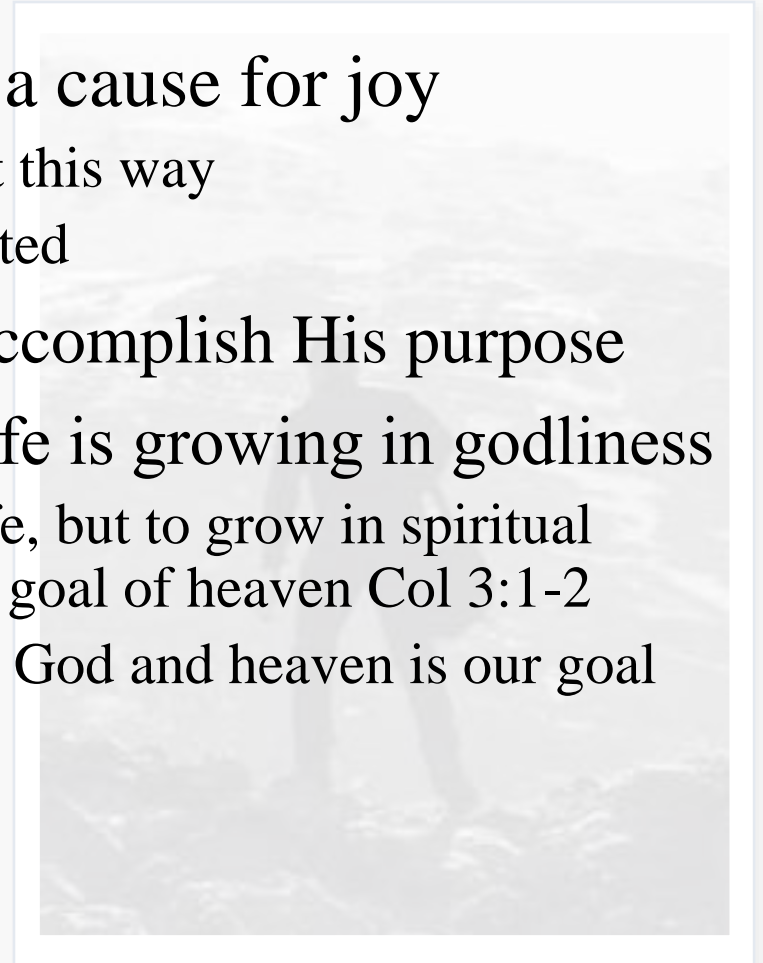
- James the brother of Jesus
 - 1 Cor 15:7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles (a leader in the church in Jerusalem)
- Twelve tribes scattered abroad
 - Jewish Christians living outside Jerusalem Acts 8:1
- James explains have a way to deal with life that sets us apart from others.
 - Faith and Works – genuine faith acts and works



How Christians should react to trials

2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces [a]patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be [b]perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

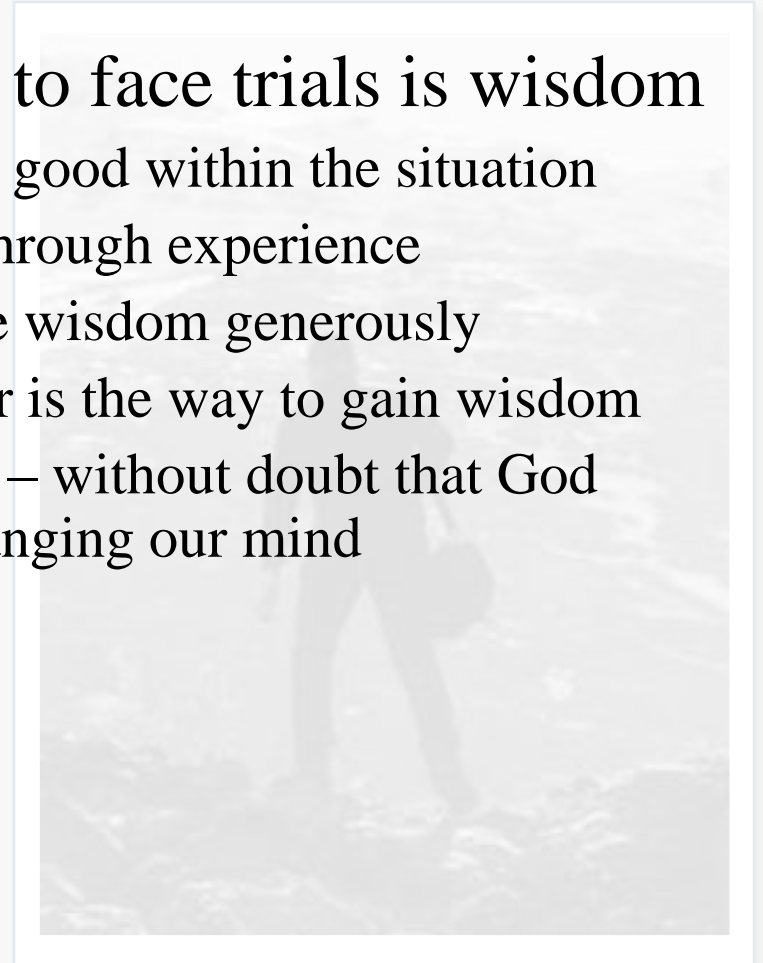
- See these trials as a cause for joy
 - Only Christians react this way
 - Our faith is being tested
- God uses trials to accomplish His purpose
- God's goal in our life is growing in godliness
 - Not a comfortable life, but to grow in spiritual maturity to reach the goal of heaven Col 3:1-2
 - Trials are a joy when God and heaven is our goal



God Provides Help to Face Trials

5-8 ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

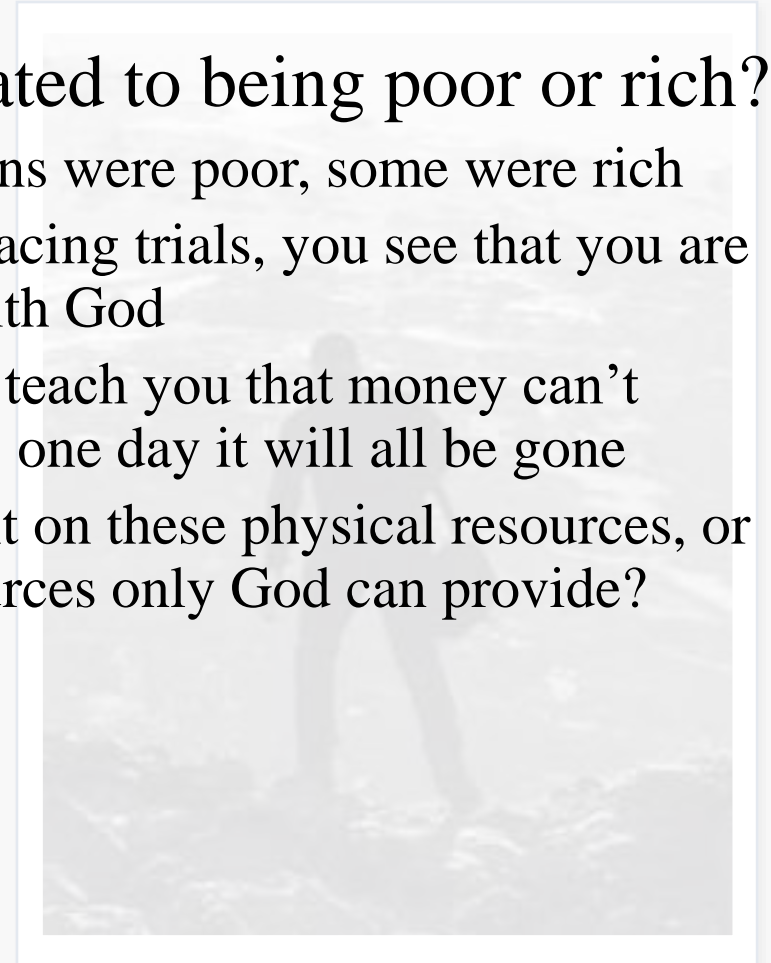
- The thing we lack to face trials is wisdom
 - The ability to see the good within the situation
 - Our wisdom grows through experience
 - God promises to give wisdom generously
 - We must ask – prayer is the way to gain wisdom
 - How we should pray – without doubt that God hears us, without changing our mind



Trials change our View of Riches

9-11 Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, ¹⁰ but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. ¹¹ For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.

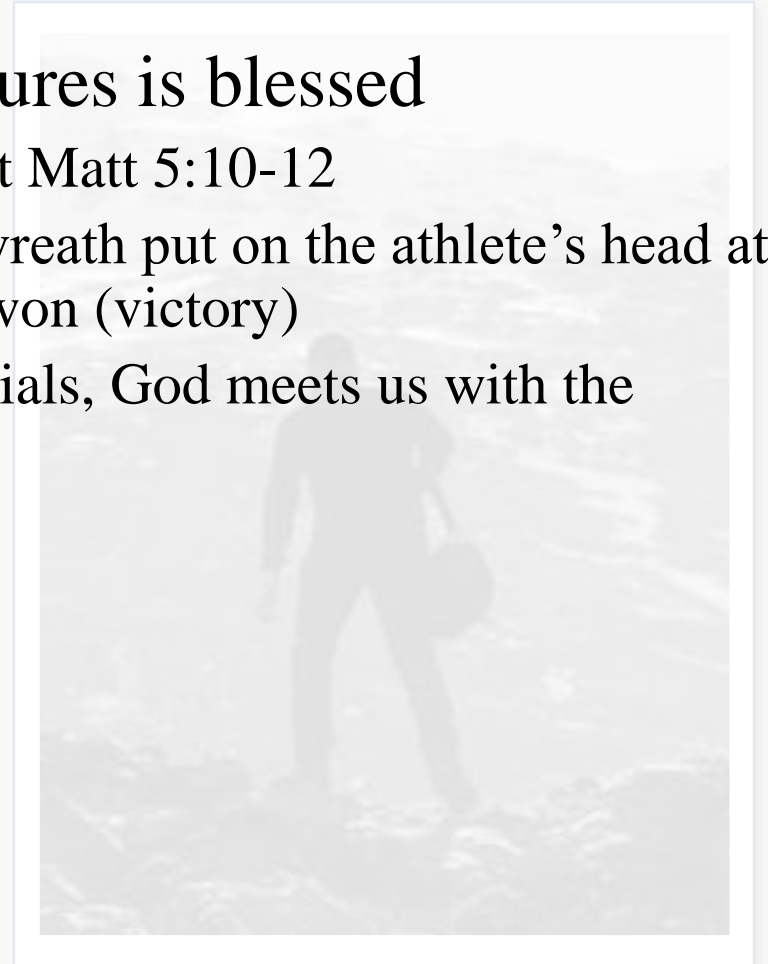
- Why are trials related to being poor or rich?
 - Many of the Christians were poor, some were rich
 - If you are poor and facing trials, you see that you are rich in your status with God
 - If you are rich, trials teach you that money can't solve your problems, one day it will all be gone
 - Will your life be built on these physical resources, or on the spiritual resources only God can provide?



We learn to live for His reward

12 Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

- The man who endures is blessed
 - Sermon on the mount Matt 5:10-12
 - Crown of life – the wreath put on the athlete’s head at the end of a race he won (victory)
 - At the end of these trials, God meets us with the crown of eternal life





How Faith Reacts to Trials

James 1:1-12