

**Agape House of Worship
Midweek Service & Bible Study**

**Book Study: Epistle of James
Part 2: Responding to Suffering and Trials**

**Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2022
Facilitator: Pastor Jide Lawore**

Breakdown of the Study of the Book of James		
Date	Key Texts	Topic
10/12/2022	Part 1 - Overview of the Book of James	Overview of the Book of James
10/19/2022	Part 2 - James 1:1-18	Responding to Suffering and Trials
10/26/2022	Part 3 - James 1:19-27	Listening, Doing & Speaking
11/2/2022	Part 4 - James 2:1-12	Warning Against Favoritism
11/9/2022	Part 5 - James 2:14-26	Relationship of Faith and Works
11/16/2022	Part 6 - James 3:1-12	Taming the Tongue
11/23/2022	Part 7 - James 3:13-18	Reacting with Wisdom
11/30/2022	Part 8 - James 4:1-12	Submitting Yourself to God
12/7/2022	Part 9 - James 4:13 - 5:6	Warning Against Boastfulness
12/14/2022	Part 10 - James 5:7-20	Patience and Prayer

Introduction

Trials, tests, and temptations are subjects that are very difficult and confusing for many Christians. In this passage, James gives us some insightful perspectives on these touchy subjects. He addresses the subtle but significant differences between trials and temptations; the purposes of them, how we can distinguish between them, how to deal with them and what should be our attitude toward each of them. In our study today, we will deal with this subject and trust God to enlighten our hearts to His eternal truth.

Trials Versus Temptation

Question: Judging from the two passages; James 1-2-4, and 12-15, are there differences between trials and temptations? If yes what are the differences?

Trials are hardships or difficult circumstances that _____ to us.

Temptations are a lure to sin (or do evil) by our _____ lusts.

Seven lessons about trials from James 1: 2-8

James 1: 2-4 "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. 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.

1. In life, we will all fall into various trials (hardships and difficulties).
2. We are to welcome trials with joy (Also, Romans 5:3-5, Philippians 4:4).
3. Trials are testing of our faith.
4. The testing of our faith produces patience (or perseverance). Romans 5:3
5. When patience is allowed to finish its work, it brings us to Christian maturity (perfection & completion).
6. Trials reveal our lack of wisdom and provide us with opportunity to receive wisdom from God.
7. Trials build our faith and helps us to be stable.

Question: Why is patience or perseverance so important to a believer?

Seven lessons about temptation from James 1: 12-18:

James 1: 12-18 “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. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. 18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

1. Overcoming temptation brings heavenly reward (the crown of life). Revelation 2:10
2. We must learn to discern and distinguish between trails and temptation.
3. Temptations are evil and hence not from God.
4. Temptations are product of our own fleshly desires
5. Temptation gives birth or life to sin
6. Sin gives birth to death (so temptation fully realized and played out leads to death)
7. We must beware of the devil’s deception.

Obtaining Wisdom from God

James 1: 5-8 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.

In this passage, James addresses the issue of wisdom in dealing with life trials. He brings up the fact that apart from perseverance and faith, believers need the wisdom of God when facing difficulties. Knowing that his audience are people dislocated who might be facing different kinds of economic, family, and physical challenges, James encourages them to ask God for wisdom to deal with various trials in a godly way. He also seizes the opportunity to teach them about faith, which is the key to receiving anything from God.

Question: Why is wisdom important when facing trials in life?

Trails Affect Both the Rich and Poor

James 1: 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.

Trials of life are levelers. They affect both the rich and the poor. The poor will be tested in their poverty, and the rich will be tested in their wealth. They both need faith and wisdom to face the test.

- The poor will be challenged to endure the trials that come with having very little. Hence, they should remember in Christ they are rich.
- The rich will be challenged with trials that money cannot fix. They should humble themselves before God and not trust in their riches.