

# EVERYWHERE WE TURN

James 1:1-4

*Presented by*  
Matt MacCollin  
January 31, 2010

Everywhere we turn, people are in trial. It may even be you this morning. This week alone, I met people who had been in vehicle accidents; faced upcoming surgeries and had lost a seemingly secure job. The loss of a loved one ranks high on the scale of varied trials; and again this week, I know those who faced that sorrow. It seemed every conversation I engaged in this past week involved some sort of trial. Can you relate?

James, Jesus Christ's half brother, wrote to believers spread abroad reminding them that the putting to proof of their faith was imperative to their reliance upon God. This morning, lets you and I consider what this man of God wrote to believers facing huge trials.

## JAMES WHO?

- Christ's **half** brother...
  - Who did not **believe** until after the resurrection.
  - Who became a **pillar** of the Church.
  - Who wrote this book in **A.D. 44-50**.
  - Who was murdered for his **testimony** in A.D. 62.

## JAMES 1:1-4

### SOME TERMS

- Consider = To think, to reason, to **suppose**.
- Joy = **Calm** delight.
- Encounter = **Full** into something, that is all around.
- Trials = A putting to **proof** by adversity.
- Knowing = To perceive or **understand**.
- Testing = **Approving** process or approving **ledger**.
- Faith = Your **reliance** upon God.
- Produces = **Works** out fully.
- Endurance = Cheerful or **hopeful** patience.
- And let = Relation of **continuance**.
- Perfect = Of full age or **mature**.
- Complete = **Perfectly** sound.

## TRIALS HAVE A REASON

- Your **mind** and **will** are engaged in this process.
- You can know **a** purpose of your trial.
- God is **tracking** your growth of faith and so can you.
- **You** must let endurance lead to maturity.
- This process is **impossible** unless **you** first **believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation (Hebrews 12:1-3).
- This process for the **believer** is impossible unless we believe God is **always** good (Romans 8:26-32).

## APPLICATION

- Do I **believe** God is always **good**, or do I leave room for **bitterness** when things don't go my way?
- Do I believe every trial is designed to **mature** me, or do I leave room for **doubting** what the Spirit of God wrote through James?
- What must change in my **thinking** regarding trials so that **joy** may be produced?

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