

Epistle of James
Week 2 – December 13, 2009
James 1:1-8

1:1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “James, a servant (NAS “bondservant”)of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greek “doulos” - slave
1:2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider it pure joy (NAS – “all joy”) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider - a mental evaluation - “all” – everything collectively - We are to evaluate our adverse circumstances and consider them to have an end result of joy • WHEN, not if, (John 16:33) you face trials of many kinds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - trials – Greek “peirasmos”; adversity, affliction, trouble • We must look beyond the present trials and know that God has planned the future results of those trials • Jesus’ response to the cross <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matt 26:39, 42 (recorded in Matthew, Mark and Luke) - Heb 12:1-3
1:3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why? Because the testing (proving of our faith develops perseverance (Greek – “upomone”; NAS – “endurance”; KJV “patience”) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “upomone” - steadfastness, constancy, endurance; in the NT the characteristic of someone who is not swerved from their deliberate purpose and loyalty to faith by even the greatest trials and sufferings - endurance (Webster) - the ability to sustain a prolonged stressful effort - a quality of continuance - endurance comes only with experience – living it! - endurance ensures that you don’t quit – marathon runners - endurance is necessary for growth
1:4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endurance/perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature (NAS “perfect”) and complete, not lacking anything <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The finished work: in Glory, you will be like Jesus Christ. You will be perfect. You will be complete.
1:5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What should we <u>ask</u> for as we go through these trials? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WISDOM - wisdom involves seeing things from God’s perspective - God gives wisdom generously, without finding fault (NAS “reproach,” disapproval)
1:6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When we ask (for wisdom), we are to believe and not doubt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - doubt – “diakrino” - to be at variance with one's self, hesitate, doubt - doubt of personal commitment. This is the doubt that wonders whether following the Lord is worth the effort. - James says that, if you want to gain the wisdom of God, you must ask for it and then you must endure in your desire to have it. • “because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind”
1:7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord”
1:8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “he is a double-minded man” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “dipsuchos” - wavering, uncertain, doubting • “unstable in all he does” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “akatastatos” - unstable, inconstant

Final thought: keep on keeping on!!