

## James' Class Schedule

1/15/2023		James' Intro/Overview
1/22/2023	James 1:1-4	Greetings and intro to testing of your faith
1/29/2023	James 1:5-8	God's provision in testing of your faith part 1
2/5/2023	James 1:5-8	God's provision in testing of your faith part 2
2/12/2023	James 1:9-12	The value in the testing of your faith
2/19/2023	James 1:13-15	Temptation in the Christian life part 1
2/26/2023	James 1:13-15	Temptation in the Christian life part 2
3/5/2023	James 1:16-18	Every perfect gift is from above
3/12/2023	James 1:19-21	Hearing, speaking and anger in a Christian life

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## Review from last week

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

4 And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

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:2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, **when you encounter various trials**,

**Why does James say “when” and not “if” ?**

- 1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

**encounter** – *periptō* - to fall into or among

- Luke 10:30 A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead.

**trials** - *peirasmos* – a testing with a view toward failure\*, a solicitation to sin

see Matt. 26:41, James 1:12, 1 Peter 1:6

**Why should we be joyous in being solicited to sin ?**

\* when used in a negative sense 3

:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

**knowing** - *ginōskō* - to be taking in knowledge, to come to know, recognize, understand

see Eph 3:19, Gal 4:9

**the <sup>S</sup>testing of your faith <sup>V</sup>produces endurance**

**testing** – *dokimion* - a testing with a view toward approval\*, an opportunity to glorify God  
1 Peter 1:7, Rom 5:3-4, Phil 2:22, James 1:12

- God takes a *peirasmos* trial (a testing with a view toward failure) and uses it as test for our approval.
- So God has a plan for these trials in our life.

\* when used in a positive sense 4

:3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

the testing of your faith produces endurance (cont.)

produces - *katergazomai* - to work out, to effect,  
produce 2 Cor 4:17, Rom 4:15, Rom 7:8

- passive voice: The Father is working the temptation/test in your life.\* Gen 50:20

endurance - *hypomonē* - an abiding under" (hypo, "under," menō, "to abide"), rendered patience

- Lit: abiding under is being at home under a trial or test\*
- The idea is to produce or fully work out in you His patience/endurance.\*
- It is not our patience but His patience – the fruit of the Spirit.\* Gal 5:22-23
- Patience/endurance grows in trials.\* Rom 5:3 \* Molloy<sub>5</sub>

:4 And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

so that – with a purpose that

you may be perfect and complete

lit: spiritually mature and complete

- Col 1:28 We [Paul] proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.
- Every believer is mature [complete] in his eternal position but still needs to grow in grace and the knowledge of Him.

lacking in nothing

All your needs are supplied in Christ.

Molloy

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## Today's Verses

<sup>5</sup> But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

<sup>6</sup> But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

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<sup>5</sup> But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

**But** - *de* - and – this is additional information

**if** – as is the case (assumed to be true)

- if you lack wisdom, and you certainly do\*

**any of you** – speaking to believers

**lacks** - *leípō* – to be wanting or deficient (present tense)

- continuous action and indicative mood of reality

**wisdom** - *sophía* - in respect to divine things, wisdom, insight, understanding

- Knowledge perceives truth and wisdom applies truth.\*
- Rejoicing in testing requires a big dose of wisdom.\*

\* McCalley <sup>8</sup>

<sup>5</sup> But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

let him ask - *aiteō* - to ask, to make request  
(present, imperative, active)

- Col 1:9b we [Paul] have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with “the knowledge of His will” in all spiritual wisdom and understanding

of God

How do we ask of God ?

- There is a link between wisdom and prayer.\*
- We are to ask God for the ability to look at tests as we should.\*

\* McCalley

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<sup>5</sup> But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

God the one giving to all generously Interlinear  
giving – present tense, continuous action  
generously – *haplōs* - sincerely and openly, motivated solely by a desire to bless

- It means to give freely with no bargaining involved.\*
- and without reproach  
reproach - to defame, disparage

- He does not rebuke [reproach] us.\*

\* McCalley

it [wisdom] will be given to him

- This is not a promise that God will give everyone who asks Him for wisdom a higher IQ.\*\*
- What God promises in this context is the ability to see the importance of enduring trials and persevering in them faithfully.\*\*

\*\* Constable 10

<sup>6</sup> But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

but - he must ask or let him ask

let him ask - *aiteō* - to ask, to make request (same as v5)

- Now we are told more about asking God

in faith or in the sphere of faith

- In Scripture asking in faith always means one of two things.\*
- It means either believing God will do what He has promised\*
- or, if He has not promised, believing that He can do what the person requesting asks.\*
- James teaches that faith is the essential condition of prayer.

\* Constable <sup>11</sup>

<sup>6</sup> But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

without any doubting

not in an expression of that hesitation which vacillates

Wuest

for the one doubting

Interlinear

for - *gar* – indeed

the one - believer

doubting - *diakrínō* - to be in strife with oneself, i.e., to doubt, hesitate, waver  
(present, middle, participle)

is like - *eoika* - a perfect tense with a present meaning,  
denotes - to be like, to resemble

What does a doubting believer resemble?

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<sup>6</sup> But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

the surf of the sea

- the surf is a picture of a doubting believer

driven [by wind]

driven - *anemizō* - to drive by the wind

tossed by the wind

tossed - *hipizō* - of the raising of waves by the wind, is used in the passive voice in James 1:6

- In the context, when we do not respond “in faith” we will be like the surf: subject to be driven and tossed by the wind.

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### Final Thoughts\*



- What James just explained is divine wisdom, God's view of life.
- However, the world, which does not have or accept this revealed wisdom, generally fails to appreciate the value of enduring trials.
- The Christian is apt to take the world's view toward his or her trials rather than God's and try to escape them at any cost.
- Consequently, the wise Christian is the one who views life in the light of God's revelation (i.e., His written Word).

\* Constable