

HHBC



# James

1:1-4

*Greetings & Introduction to the  
Testing of Your Faith*



# James 1:1-4

1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

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.



# James 1:2

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

An oxymoronic statement? How can trials / sufferings bring us joy?

‘Consider’ is *hēgeomai*, or think of it this way, deem it to be...

‘Joy’: is what our mind-set is commanded to be: *chara* – an occasion of Gladness, well-being, same use as in Mat. 25:21: **“Well done, thou good and faithful servant..... Enter thou into the joy of the Lord.”**

- Q: what is ‘*chara*’ a close cousin of in the N.T.? *Especially Paul’s epistles . . .*
- *charis* = **grace** in english - something which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech [ McCalley’s ‘Grace’ series expounds on this]

When you ‘**encounter**’: (aorist tense, active voice, *subjunctive* mood): verb is *periptō* – to fall into as to be encompassed. (*e.g. surrounded & overtaken by robbers as the man in the Good Samaritan story*). SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD: MAYBE YOU WILL FALL INTO AND BE SURROUNDED BY TRIALS, MAYBE NOT



# James 1:2

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

‘Various’ = **poikilos** - ‘all sorts and all colors of’ . . . . trials: (STRONGS):

‘Trials’ = **peirasmos**. (all shapes and sizes of **peirasmos** events coming at the brethren at any given time) ... *Curveballs, sliders, fastballs, changeups, knuckleballs?*

In Greek ‘Various trials’ is: **poikilos peirasmos!** *Sounds fun, but it is not.*

## peirasmos:

- **BAD SENSE:** a. an internal or external temptation to sin / b. or adversity, affliction & trouble / c. WUEST: a try, or test with the hope that the one put to the test breaks down under the test
- **GOOD SENSE:** to try or test intentionally, and with the purpose of discovering what good or evil, what power or weakness, was in a person or thing,
- God & Jesus Christ sometimes **peirazō(s)** us to search for the **GOOD SENSE** above; He **NEVER SENDS (Authors) the BAD SENSE (a.) or (c.)**. What about **(b.)?** : Job, yes?
- Lu. 6:5,6 Example: ‘seeing the large crowd coming, .... Jesus said to Philip, **“Where are we to buy bread that these may eat?”** v. 6: ‘This He was saying to **test** him, for He Himself knew what He was intending to do. **Peirazō** is the Greek for ‘test’ here



# James 1:3

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

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

‘**knowing**’ = *ginōskō* – ‘come to knowledge by experience & learning’ (The fact that a *peirazō* trial should be looked at in a joyous mind-frame is definitely **not** intuitive to our mind)

This (counter-intuitive) doctrine in James 1:2-4 is come to by walking with the Lord and learning it moment by moment, year by year, perhaps starting out failure in the beginning.

The ‘**testing**’ of your faith: is *dokimion* [noun]. *Dokimazō* is the verb:

- *Dokimazō* is to discern, prove, try, examine, with **approval** under the test in mind. Used most often of God’s testing
- As In: I Cor 3:13-14: - *‘for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will **test** the quality of each man’s work. If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward’*
- God’s dokimos testing are specifically designed for us, He guiding hand and care are in each one (I Cor. 10:13): *‘(God) will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.’*



# James 1:3

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

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

**‘produces’** = *katergazomai* – carrying out / working out / doing / accomplishing are like usages in Paul’s letters (usually in regards to the working of sin). “Production Plant” / “factory” are good analogies

- God is doing the working out in order to fully form His patience / endurance in us (passive voice) [MOLLOY]

**‘endurance’** = *hypomonē* = (n.) and the verb is: ‘under/ hupo + abiding/ meno’ – bear bravely, steadfastly persevere the tribulation, with fortitude. (As one who hunkers down in a storm cellar?)

- Trials grow patience, not our patience but God’s patience – a fruit of the spirit [Gal. 5:22] [MOLLOY 3.14.2004 TRIALS & SUFFERING SLIDES]

Wuest translation: *‘produces a patience which bears up, and doesn’t lose heart or courage under trials...’*

However: the bearing under the trial with fortitude does not come from our resources & strength, but what resources Christ himself gives us as we fortified under the trial with His infinite love, strength, mercy, power....



# James 1:4

*Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.*

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

- Testing of our faith accomplishes endurance (vs. 3) / the ability to live and bear up under the trial,
- and then this resulting endurance (abiding in Him in the trial) results in **perfect**(ness): *teleios* [the final product] which is us being made:
- **teleios** (perfect): spiritually finished out, spiritually mature in Christ
- **'complete'** – *holoklēros* – no part unsound, entire and whole
- In context with Vs. 5 on.....: *'and if it is the case any of you undergoing these trials is deficient in wisdom (in the trial), let him ask (for wisdom) of God.....'* WUEST

What is the Application of James 1:2-4?:



# James 1:2-4

*Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

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- To consider it all rejoicing: is an aorist middle imperative Deem it fact that falling into variegated trials brings you joy!
- Why is it Joy?
  1. Suffering is a grace gift & real and purposeful part of the Christian life [Phil 1:29]
  2. We are appointed to trials and suffering as Ambassadors for Christ [I Thes. 3:3; 2:14,15]
  3. It is an intrinsic element of our Union with Christ: a) **as we** suffer with Him & we are partakers of His sufferings, it is proof we are His children and will share in His glorification [Rom 8:16-18], b) we share in Christ's sufferings [I Pet. 4:13] so that **"at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation"**
  4. God's Purpose in suffering under trial is to reveal Himself, His very nature & essence to us: a) God's greatest manifestation of His glory was at the cross and the resurrection, b) likewise, God's greatest manifestation of His glory **in the believer** is shown through our identification with the cross (reckoning as dead to the Sin Nature & alive with Christ in His resurrected Life) and not caving under the trial (*e.g.: pleading for deliverance; seeking solace in self, self-help books, psychiatric help, etc.*), but instead casting our cares upon Him [I Pet. 5:7], the Father of Mercies & the God of all comfort [2 Cor. 1:3]





# James 1:2-4

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## ■ Why is it Joy? Continued....

4. c) besides relying in faith on the God of all comfort, the Father of mercies, we have a High Priest and advocate ' ... **who can sympathize with our weaknesses, One who has been *tempted* [peirazō] *in all things* as we are, yet without sin...**' Heb. 4:15

and further, '*let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*' (v. 16)

5. God's glory will be revealed through our suffering under these manifold trials, as we enjoy His sweet company, love, grace, compassion and His peace (surpassing all understanding) as we REST in Him during the trial.

'SUFFERING ON BEHALF OF CHRIST' NOTES FROM HAL MOLLOY, 1991



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.

- **QUESTION : WHAT IS THE POSSIBLE GOOD OF TEMPTATION ? - Cont'd**
- **ANSWER : James 1:3,4**
- **SUMMARY : Observe the good the Lord performs with your temptations !**
  - His desire is for you to “count it all joy” (He has a purpose)
  - He wants you to know (completely understand) His purpose
  - He will use the temptation (view toward failure) as a test (view toward approval) of your faith
  - He expects & desires you to abide by faith in His truth
  - He then produces His patience in you
  - His patience matures you spiritually
  - His patience stabilizes you & supplies all your needs in your temptations
- **THIS IS GOD’S GRACE IN ROM 8:28- 29:**

*And we know that God **causes all things to work together for good to those who love God**, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also **predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son**, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.*



James 1:2-4

*Final Thoughts:*

1. He giveth more grace as our burdens grow greater,  
He sendeth more strength as our labors increase;  
To added afflictions He addeth His mercy,  
To multiplied trials He multiplies peace.

2. When we have exhausted our store of endurance,  
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,  
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources  
Our Father's full giving is only begun.

3. Fear not that thy need shall exceed His provision,  
Our God ever yearns His resources to share;  
Lean hard on the arm everlasting, availing;  
The Father both thee and thy load will upbear.

**REFRAIN:**

His love has no limits, His grace has no measure,  
His power no boundary known unto men;  
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus  
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again!

'HE GIVETH MORE GRACE' LYRICS: ANNIE JOHNSON FLINT, © 1941