

James 1

I have entitled today's message, "**Hard Times**" Part 6

James 1:1

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word.

James 1:1-8

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

2

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

3

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

4

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

5

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

6

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

8

A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

9

Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:

10

But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away.

11

For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

12

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

13

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15

Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

16

Do not err, my beloved brethren.

Let us pray

You may be seated.

### **“Hard Times”**

#### **Vs. 12**

Blessed (supremely blessed) is the man that endureth (stayed under, remained, undergo, bears, perseveres, abides) temptation (in the most general sense - anything that will try the reality of our faith - solicitation of evil, adversity, the testing of our convictions, of our will, afflictions, persecution, it is not just temptation to sin, it would include even sickness): for when he is tried (approved, successful), he shall receive (obtain) the crown (the badge, the prize, the honor) of life, which the Lord (The Supreme One, the Master) hath promised to them that love him.

In trials, difficulties, temptations, will we adhere to the truth, or will we abandon and abort our faith and God?

People today do not understand that when we abandon God's Word, dilute it, compromise it, we are abandoning God, hating God, despising God.

This is not tolerated by God and it is not a genuine faith.

It is a religion that fits into the culture. Approved by the culture and costs little.

That is man's truth and not God's truth. Man's religion and not God's reality.

There is a lot in this world to make a person waver... to cause a person to be double minded.

We can respond the wrong way. We can fail when we fall into divers temptations.

We can respond to difficulties by murmuring and complaining, by rebelling and sinning.

Under pressure, I know I have staggered at times. I have had sea legs.

I have thought wrong. I have said to myself things I should not have said.

This is not fair. I can't take this anymore.

I have wanted to quit.

There are no blessings for those who do not endure.

**This is a real trying of our faith.**

We were told to rejoice in our diverse trials and difficulties, to let them work on us and in us and to bring out of us a patience, an endurance, a spiritual fitness and now in verse 12,

We have made it to the other side.

Blessed is the man that endureth.

Because we have made it through, we have asked for wisdom, we have arisen to an unwavering faith.

We have gone from poured concrete to a hardened concrete.

From molten steel to hardened steel.

It is not enough that we are exposed to trials, or that we suffer through them.

If we are to get the good from them,  
If they are to refine and complete our character, that we lack nothing,

We must endure them.

We must meet them with constancy.

Blessed is the man that endureth.

Why, because we have passed the test, we have been approved.

After coming out of the fire, with the dross of our life removed, God stamps us as metal of true worth.

Just like gold is stamped.

All gold is tried and purified in the fire.

**Job 23:10**

But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

God has proved us and approved us. And we shall receive a crown of life.

No one likes trials, but we should like the godly results that are produced in us.

Many who have gone into difficulties, have not done so well.

I know people who are so bitter, so hateful, so full of nastiness, so distraught, and depressed that their adversities have stolen everything from them.

They are suicidal. They feel betrayed. They are angry. They feel worthless.

We have all been there in the struggle, how will we come out?

Not everyone endures.

The Bible calls it a Shipwreck of faith, castaway, forsaking.

**I Timothy 1:19-20**

Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

20

Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

**I Cor. 9:24-27**

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

25

And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

26

I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

27

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

**2 Timothy 4:10**

For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica;

Not everyone stays the course and finishes, not everyone keeps the faith.

Many fall by the wayside.

Some spring up quick but when persecution comes, or the heat is turned up, they are gone.

If we endure temptations correctly, they will work and create something good inside of us.

The trials will make a refined and tested faith, and create a character of endurance.

We become dependable in the fight.

We can be counted upon.

We can be a man or woman that stands in the gap.

How do we know that? Because we have been in the fight, fire,

While we are in the fire, we can acquire gentleness, tenderness, sympathy, understanding, confidence,

I talked to a man who just received notice that he has cancer. This has changed me.

For the better or for worse.

Look around us to those who stand head and shoulders above the crowd today.

People want to hear their stories or receive counsel from them.

Notice who is on the speaking circuit?

People who have survived. People who have withstood the storms of life.

We want to hear their story.

Are they not the survivors, are they not the over comers, are they not the brave that did not let the situation define them or defeat them?

No one looks to the sour, saddened, flopping fish of life.

Oh, we feel like that, we are enticed to that path, but we must keep looking up to the author and finisher of our faith.

Jesus Christ was tried. He endured the cross and such a contradiction of sinners against himself.

We must draw strength from Christ to endure our trials.

We continue to put one foot in front of the other.

We continue to rise off of the mat, through tears, pain, heartbreak, and we cry out.....

The Lord giveth and the Lord hath takeneth away, blessed be the name of the Lord.

We will not curse God nor charge God with folly, nor turn from His precious promises found in this book.

We gain strength, inner strength, in the inner man, from the Spirit of God, from the Word of God, from the people of God, from the Son of God, and we resist our flesh and we go through the fog, through the darkness, through the tunnel, knowing that there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Blessed is the man that endureth.

Blessed is the man that endureth.

Blessed is the man that endureth .

Can you hear God say,

Blessed is the man that endureth.

Vs. 12 is on the other bank, we have crossed the river, we have made it through the woods.

vs. 2 was the beginning, vs. 12 is the finish line.

The instruction was to count it all joy when you fall into difficulties, various and diverse problems.

To meet them with a cheerful heart.

It will be a trial of our faith,

NOT JUST OUR BODY,  
NOT JUST OUR FINANCES,  
NOT JUST OUR FAMILY,  
NOT JUST OUR BUSINESS.

It is a trial of our faith in God and His Word?

WILL we STAY TRUE to the Bible? True to the principles we know. True to our Savior and our God.

Will we embrace our difficulties and face them head on?

Knowing that it will do a work inside of us.

If we need wisdom, we can ask God.

**Even** if we lose everything, vs. 10 which is going to happen anyway, when life is over, we can't take it with us, everything that we have is left for someone else to spend and use,

Even if we lose everything, we can endure.

The reward for enduring is only for the enduring.

There is no insurance that can secure us from problems, difficulties, trials, temptations in this life.

We all meet these unwelcome guests.

These life-changing, unpleasantries of life.

They are to be expected.

Naive is the person who thinks they will go through life untouched.



The Holy Scriptures promises us trouble in this life.

We must be on guard.

We will not find it easy to be faithful to our Master.

The Scriptures make it clear that we will face opposition, temptations and trials.

There is no smooth path of life.

There is no bubble that we can enter that we will not have the testings of life and faith.

There is no escaping this process.

Everywhere we turn there is temptations and trials.

There are temptations to adversity. What are they? Strike back, to quit, to go back

There are temptations to prosperity. What are they? Forget God, independent from God, trust in uncertain riches,

There are temptations to youth. What are they? Attracted to the exciting, influenced by the cool

There are temptations to the middle years. What are they?

There are temptations in the older years. What are they?

There are temptations in illness and poor health. What are they?

Our peace will be interrupted. Hurricanes are coming.

Our pleasures will be cut short. Vacation is over.

Every Christian will go into the furnace.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego said to King Nebuchadnezzar, you do what you have to do but we will not bow down to the golden image.

Endurance means not compromising to make the situation easier, more tolerable, more comfortable for us.

This is precisely what many believers do.

They take the path of no resistance, no faith, and no hurt.

And sometimes the furnace is heated 7 times hotter than normal, more than we thought we could bear, but Jesus is with us.

Just as He was with the 3 young men in the fiery furnace.

Jesus promised that He would be with us.

**Matt. 28:20**

and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

**Hebrews 13:5-6**

I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

6

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

**Psalm 23:4**

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Provision has been made for us to have victory.

When Temptations and trials come,

1. We find out our weak points - so they are an educator to us - creating self knowledge.

Through this, we can learn to strengthen our weaknesses.

It is important to know where our weaknesses are.

2. It is the fire that purifies, strengthens and hardens the clay.

We are made into the people we are today because of the fires that we have gone through in life.

They have either made us better or made us bitter.

3. With the things that we have been through, now we are able to help others, to comfort others, and to minister to others.

**II Cor. 1:3-4**

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

4

Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

When I went thru the dark days at Medora, it was like my brothers had cast me into a pit, my own friends had lifted up their heel against me, people were destroying the work of God,

I embraced my Egypt journey, trusted that the Lord had a plan,

The Bible does not say, Blessed is the man that is tempted.

No, it says, Blessed is the man that endureth temptation.

The person that survives it biblically, that does not go aside from the Word of God to the left or the right, but bears up under it joyfully.

He is the blessed man.

Our faith will be tested and tried.

If it will not bear the strain, then what kind of faith is it?

All of our trials are for this purpose.

To be approved of God is the great aim of a Christian in all his trials.

Abraham was tried.

The Bible says that, Abraham was strong in faith, giving glory to God.

Stand fast in the Lord my dear brothers and sisters.

IF a man's faith is tried and he forego it and abandon it, what kind of faith does he have?

Song - some thru the waters and some thru but all thru the blood.

Blessed is the person that continues to stand for God, for the right, for holiness, that clings to God and truth.

**Heb. 10:36**

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Blessings comes to the person that follows the path of God under duress, stress, pressures, and stays on the path of God.

Blessings come to the one that endures.

What we must have is the endurance, the patience, the faith, the proper attitude and mindset.

The lack of faith causes instability.

One thing we must do under duress is pour into ourselves more of the Bible, more of church and preaching.

When Jesus was under temptations, what was His response?

Scripture. It was Scriptures.

Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

### **Hard Times**

Let us stand for closing invitation

The volition of our will to give in to the pressures, adversities, temptations, to quit in our labors and work and like Demas, to no longer continue the fight of our faith.

To take the easy route, the path of least resistance, to cave in,

To leave the course, to quit the faith,

The person that endures - does not mean that we will not fail or that we don't have a bad attitude or we don't wrestle with our feelings.

We will get low in our hardships, we will cry.

It means we get up, we continue on,

Gospel