

THAT YE MAY BE PERFECT AND ENTIRE WANTING NOTHING JAMES 1:1-12

Text: James 1:4

James 1:4

⁴ But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Introduction:

James didn't communicate his credentials, but only referred to himself as only a servant of God. No greater title could be ascribed to a Christian than this – A servant of God.”

1. THE PEOPLE (VS. 1)

James 1:1

¹ James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

Notice these people were scattered abroad.

Note why they were scattered:

Acts 8:1

¹ And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there

was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Acts 26:10-11

¹⁰ Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against *them*. ¹¹ And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled *them* to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted *them* even unto strange cities.

1 Corinthians 15:9

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Galatians 1:13

¹³ For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:

These people were scattered because of persecution.

Saul was evidently the leader of this persecution.

“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.”

God permitted this persecution that His Word might now be scattered abroad by the suffering saints.

Quote:

“One of the great mysteries in church history is that Christians are most pure in times of cultural hostility.

When things are easy and good, that is when Christians most often goes astray. When Christianity seems identical with the culture and even when the church seems to be enjoying its greatest earthly success that is when it is its weakest. Conversely, when the Christian encounters hardship, persecution, and suffering...then they are closest to the crucified Lord, then there are fewer hypocrites and nominal believers among its members, and then the faith of Christians burns most intensely.”

2. THE PATH (VS. 2-4) – TEMPTATIONS, TRYING

James 1:2-4

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.

Often the trail to maturity is a trail of trials.

Romans 5:3-5

³ And not only *so*, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; ⁴ And patience, experience; and experience, hope: ⁵ And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

A. The ability to rejoice in trouble

Paul says that the Christian can rejoice in the bad times of life. Why is this true; because of the little word "knowing?" When the trials of life descend, the true believer knows that God is working His will in our lives and is attempting to produce in us a state of Christlikeness.

God is trying to make us like Jesus.

B. The ability to recognize in trouble

Paul here speaks of the benefits of this pressure.

1. Tribulation – Pressure
2. Patience – Endurance
3. Experience – Proven, Maturity
4. Hope – The confidence we'll not be disappointed

"The road to maturity is paved with struggle!"

Illustrations:

- Ask Abraham and he will point to Mt. Moriah.
- Ask Jacob and he will point to a pillow of stone.

- Ask Joseph and he will point to a Egyptian prison.
- Ask Moses and he will point to the backside of the desert.
- Ask Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and they will point to a fiery furnace.
- Ask Daniel and he will point to a den of lions.
- Ask John and he will point to Patmos.

C. The ability to rest

If life is to be difficult and there is to be trouble in my life, then how can I rejoice and how can I rest? The answer lies in this verse. Paul tells us that the love of God, like a vast river, is constantly being poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit!

Illustration:

Rick Pitino interview.

3. PURPOSE (VS. 4) – PERFECT ENTIRE, WANTING NOTHING

James 1:4

⁴ But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

The idea here is completeness. It is the temptation and trying that brings about completeness.

Someone has once said, "Faith that had not been tired or tested can't be trusted."

4. PETITION (VS. 5-11) – ASK

James 1:5-11

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.

A. The Source of Wisdom

Every one of us needs this wisdom. It is referring back to understanding, during the trials, God is in control. He is working everything according to His purpose and will.

Wisdom is the practical use and exercise of knowledge.

- We must acknowledge our lack of wisdom
- We must ask for wisdom
- We must ask with assurance
- We must adopt and apply the wisdom given

B. The Securing of Wisdom

We all need this wisdom and all we need to do is ask.

Close:

There was a Scottish discus thrower from the 19th century, who lived days before professional trainers and developed his skills alone in the highlands.

He made his own discus from the description he read in a book. What he didn't know was that the competition discus was made of wood with an outer rim of iron. His discus was made of pure metal, four times heavier than the ones used by his would-be challengers.

This committed Scotsman trained day after day, laboring under the burden of extra weight. He marked the record distance and kept working until he could throw that far.

Of course, when he arrived at the competition, he was handed the official wooden discus. He threw it like a tea saucer. He set new records and for many years, none of his competitors could touch him.

That's how it's done – train under a great burden.

Some of us here today are training under a great burden.

It hurts.

It is unpleasant.

Sometimes we despair.

Sometimes we cry.

Sometimes we are angry at the burden.

But we must always take heart. We must always have a deep sense of joy.

Why? Because the burden is producing perseverance.

Perseverance is producing maturity.

Neither of these virtues so prized by God would ever be ours without the burden.