

# James 1 New King James Version (NKJV)

## Greeting to the Twelve Tribes

**1** James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad:

Greetings.

## Profiting from Trials

<sup>2</sup>My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, <sup>3</sup>knowing that the testing of your faith produces <sup>[a]</sup>patience. <sup>4</sup>But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be <sup>[b]</sup>perfect and complete, lacking nothing. <sup>5</sup>If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup>But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup>*he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

## The Perspective of Rich and Poor

<sup>9</sup>Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, <sup>10</sup>but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. <sup>11</sup>For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.

## Loving God Under Trials

<sup>12</sup>Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. <sup>13</sup>Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. <sup>14</sup>But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. <sup>15</sup>Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

<sup>16</sup>Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. <sup>17</sup>Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. <sup>18</sup>Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

## Qualities Needed in Trials

<sup>19</sup><sup>[c]</sup>So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; <sup>20</sup>for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

## Doers—Not Hearers Only

<sup>21</sup>Therefore lay aside all filthiness and <sup>[d]</sup>overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup>For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. <sup>25</sup>But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

<sup>26</sup>If anyone <sup>[e]</sup>among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion *is* useless. <sup>27</sup>Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.