

TRIALS IN THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE  
JAMES 1:1-18

I. EXTERNAL TRIALS (2-11).

A. TRIALS OF OUR FAITH (2-4).

1. SUFFERING IS THE TESTING OF OUR FAITH ("LORD GIVE ME FAITH. ").
  - A) GOD ALLOWS IT AND TAILORS IT FOR US.
  - B) "COUNT" = "CHALK IT UP."
  - C) UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCE OF ALL SORTS (NOT JUST PERSECUTION).
  - D) JOY IN %; NOT FOR THE TRIAL ITSELF.
2. RESULTS OF SUFFERING.
  - A) PERSEVERANCE.
  - B) PERSEVERANCE LEADS TO MATURITY.  
(PERFECT = MATURITY TO LIVE ABOVE THE TRIALS.)
  - C) THE MATURE XN LACKS NOTHING.

B. FAITH TO MEET TRIALS (5-8).

1. PRAYER FOR WISDOM.
  - A) A GIFT.
  - B) GIVEN LIBERALLY.
  - C) GIVEN WITHOUT REPROACH.
2. THAT GOD HEARS AND ACTS.
3. NOT DOUBTING.

C. POVERTY AND WEALTH.

1. POOR PERSON HAS A HIGH POSITION IN CHRIST.
2. WEALTHY PERSON HAS ONLY A BRIEF LIFE.  
(SCIROCCO = THE SCORCHING WIND.)
3. RICHES ARE NOT THE ANSWER TO LIFE'S TRIALS.  
(PROBLEMS WILL NOT GO AWAY BY THROWING \$ AT THEM.)

II. INTERNAL TRIALS (12-18).

A. "TRIAL" = OUTWARD.

B. "TEMPTATION" = INWARD.

C. BLESSINGS UPON THOSE WHO PERSERVE.

1. STANDS THE TEST.
2. RECEIVES THE CROWN OF LIFE.
3. SHOWS OUR LOVE FOR GOD (RO. 8:25).

D. EVIL'S SOURCE.

1. NOT GOD (AGAINST TEACHING THAT GOD CREATED GOOD AND EVIL, AND  
JEWISH DOCTRINE OF TWO NATURES.)
2. OUR OWN DESIRES (FEELINGS).  
(GK: A FISH DRAWN OFF COURSE BY BAIT ONLY TO FIND THEREIN A  
DEADLY HOOK.)
  - A) TEMPTATION.
  - B) LUST.
  - C) SIN.
  - D) DEATH.

E. WHAT GOD GIVES.

1. BE RIGHT-MINDED ABOUT THIS TRUTH.
2. GOOD & PERFECT GIFTS UPON XN & NON-XN (MT. 5:45).
3. FATHER OF LIGHTS (OPPOSES PAGAN SUN-WORSHIP).
4. FROM AN UNCHANGING GOD.
5. THE GREATEST GIFT -- SALVATION.
  - A) REVERSES 1:15.
  - B) HIS CHOICE.
  - C) THROUGH THE WORD OF TRUTH.
  - D) TO BE IN A SPECIAL POSITION.