

GET REAL

LIVE WHAT YOU BELIEVE

GOT TRIALS? GET WISDOM!

Week 2 - James 1:1-8

Week 1 Rewind | *The book of James was written to Christians between 44 and 50 A.D., probably by Jesus' half-brother, James. It is a practical book regarding how we should live if we are truly authentic Christ-followers.*

For you to appreciate the value of this book, you must understand what it means to be a Real Christian. Let's take a look!

Read It | James 1:1-8

¹ James, a bond servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. ² Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

⁶ But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

⁷ That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;

⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

– Talk About It –

1. **Read** verse 1. James calls himself a “bond servant” to Jesus. We know that James was the biological son of Mary, which made him the half-brother of Jesus. It must have been difficult for James to call himself a “servant” of his own brother. **What** kinds of **trials** or conflict might Jesus and James have faced in their early home life?
2. To be a bond servant requires
 - a) ABSOLUTE humility,
 - b) ABSOLUTE loyalty,
 - c) ABSOLUTE obedience, and
 - d) ABSOLUTE willingness to serve your master for life.

Give specific examples of how you, as a **Real** Christian, can show these qualities toward your friends at school or on social media. And, what about to your family members?

Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22



3. Based on verse 1, we know that James did not need to make himself appear important! **How** would you relate to your friends at school, people at work, or your family members if you, like James, felt called to serve them?
4. If you were truly living a life of humility, **how** would you treat people whom you view as a) very popular or b) not so popular?
5. First-century Christians faced **trials** and hardships because of their faith, such as job loss and alienation from friends and family. They were looked down on and ridiculed, and sometimes forced to face severe penalties such as torture and even death—all because they were Christ-followers! **Read** verses 2-3. So, **why** did James tell Christians to count these extreme difficulties as *joy*?
6. **What** difficulties and **trials** might you face because you identify yourself as a Christ-follower? **What trials** might you face simply because life is hard?
7. **Share** two or three specific examples of how responding to life's **trials** with *joy* would allow God to make you more like Him. (*Hint: Re-read* verse 4).
8. **How** is *joy* different from happiness?

Good Stuff | James jumps into the importance of having **wisdom** right after telling us about the benefit of **trials**! (**Re-read** verses 2-5.) He wants us to know that **trials** and temptations are good; they require us to seek **wisdom** from God. **Wisdom** is having God's perspective regarding the "stuff" in our lives!

9. **What** are two examples of the differences between **wisdom** and intelligence?
10. **Share** specific examples of people in your life who show:
 - a. True wisdom (Use their names.)
 - b. Great intelligence, but who make unwise choices (Do *not* use their names.)
11. **When** was a time *in your own life* when you acted unwisely? (Be **BOLD** in sharing, but be sure it is **WISE** for you to share this example with others!)

– Live It –

Get Real | Read aloud verses 5-8. We are instructed to ask for wisdom, trusting (knowing for sure) that the Lord will give it to us. **Why** do these verses tell us that when we doubt God's provision of **wisdom** that we become "double-minded" or, that **we don't live what we believe**?