

The Righteous Response to Trials

**Stonebriar Community Church
Marathon Fellowship
Dr. Stephen S. Kim
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The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him all creatures here below

Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

JAMES

The Epistle of True (Living) Faith

- I. The Perspective of Faith in Testing (1:1-18)
- II. The Practice of Truth in Trials (1:19–2:26)
- III. The Power over Tongue in Trials (3:1–4:17)
- IV. The Patience of Faith in Trouble (5:1-20)

3 Observations about Trials in James 1:1-4

1. Trials are inevitable.

- Gk. *hotan* “when,” not “if”

2. Trials are varied.

- Gk. *poikilois* (all sizes & shapes)

3. Trials are purposeful.

- Gk. *hoti* (“because”)
- Gk. *hina* (“so that”)

“Trials” & “Temptations” in James 1

- **Noun: Gk. *peirasmois***
- **Verb: Gk. *Peirazō***
- **Two different but related senses in the NT: positive & negative**
 1. Positive—Testing, trial, putting to the test with the intent of confirming and strengthening the virtue of someone.
ex.) Abraham was tested by God (Heb. 11:17; Gen. 22:1-22)
 2. Negative—Temptation, enticement to sin
ex.) Jesus was tempted by the devil (Matt. 4:1-11; cf. Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-12)

“Trials” & “Temptations”

in James 1 (cont.)

- The external & objective “trials” that are given by God to strengthen our faith and develop perseverance, can become an internal & subjective source of “temptation” when not received with a proper attitude.

The Key to Responding to Trials in James 1:19-26

- 4 Commands of Responding to the Word of God:
 1. **Be quick to hear/listen to the Word of God.**
 2. **Be slow to speak.**
 3. **Be slow to become angry.**
 4. **Receive the Word of God with humility.**

“Hypocritical Religion”

in James 1:26–2:13

- **Personal favoritism & discrimination (external)**
 - “Favoritism”: Gk. *prosōpolēmpsia* (“to receive a face”)
 - “Discriminate”: Gk. *diakrinō* (“to judge through”)

The Lord's Supper Reexamined

(1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

- 1. The exploitation of the Lord's Supper (vv. 17-22)**
- 2. The explanation of the Lord's Supper (vv. 23-26)**
- 3. The examination before the Lord's Supper (vv. 27-32)**
- 4. The exhortation for the Lord's Supper (vv. 33-34)**

The Misuse of Words/Tongue in James 3

- **Context: The misuse of words/tongue in public worship**
 - Teaching: Position of honor & prestige (responsibility, accountability)
 - Some were using this position of teaching to air one's own opinions & divisive language to tear down others
 - Test of a Spirit-controlled person: use of his/her tongue