

“Faith That Stands, Faith That Resists, Faith That Acts”

INTRO

Good morning, church!

Today we’re stepping into James 1 — one of the most practical, real, honest chapters in the New Testament. James writes to believers who were “*scattered, hurting, pressured, and uncertain about the future*”.

And what I love is that James writes this chapter in the exact order we experience the Christian life:

- We face trials
- We need wisdom
- Our identity gets tested
- God calls us to endurance
- Temptations come
- So James anchors us in God’s goodness
- He shapes our relationships
- He opens our hearts to receive the Word
- And He calls us to do the Word

So today’s message is built around three movements:

1. Faith that stands

2. Faith that resists

3. Faith that acts

Let’s dive in.

MOVEMENT 1 — FAITH THAT STANDS

James 1:2-12 — FULL SCRIPTURE

“2 Consider it nothing but joy, my brethren... whenever you fall into various trials.

3 Be assured that the testing of your faith... produces endurance.

4 And let endurance have its perfect result... so that you may be mature and completely developed, lacking in nothing.”

“5 If any of you lacks wisdom... ask of God, who gives generously... and it will be given.

6 But he must ask in faith...

7 for that person should not expect to receive anything...

8 being double-minded and unstable in all his ways.”

**“9 Let the brother in humble circumstances glory in his high position...
10 and the rich man in his humiliation... for like the flower of the grass he will pass away.
11 The sun rises... the flower falls... so too will the rich man fade away.”**

“12 Blessed is the man who is steadfast under trial... for he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

Message

James begins where we live: trials.

He isn't telling us to pretend everything is fine. He's saying:

Your trial is producing something in you.

Endurance. Maturity. Christlikeness.

Your trial is not wasted. Your tears are not ignored.

Then James says we need wisdom — because trials create confusion.

Ask God. He gives generously. But ask with faith, not double-mindedness.

Then James deals with identity:

- The poor can boast in their spiritual standing
- The rich must beware of trusting their wealth

Because trials reveal what we truly depend on.

And finally, endurance:

James says endurance defines us — trials expose the cracks.

And endurance shapes us — like metal heated and hammered into strength.

STORY #1 — Your personal struggle (as previously placed)

Tell that brief story of your own season of pressure.

Remind them: *this is where faith becomes muscle.*

MOVEMENT 2 — FAITH THAT RESISTS

James 1:13–20

**“13 Let no one say, ‘I am being tempted by God’...
for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself tempts no one.
14 Each one is tempted when he is dragged away... by his own desire.
15 Desire gives birth to sin... and sin brings forth death.”**

**“16 Do not be misled...
17 Every good thing given... is from above, from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.
18 In His will He gave us birth by the word of truth...”**

**“19 Let everyone be quick to hear... slow to speak... slow to anger.
20 For human anger does not produce the righteousness of God.”**

Message Portion

James shifts from external pressure to internal temptation.

Trials happen to you.

Temptation rises *in* you.

And James wants to clear up the confusion:

God does not tempt you.

Temptation begins with desire...

Desire leads to sin...

Sin leads to death.

Right after talking about temptation, James says:

“Every good and perfect gift comes from God.”

Why here?

Because in temptation we may start doubting God’s goodness.

James says:

God never changes. God never shifts. God never stops being faithful.

Then he goes straight into relationships:

“Be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger...”

Because pressure makes us reactive.

But God calls us to respond with grace.

This is faith that resists.

MOVEMENT 3 — FAITH THAT ACTS

James 1:21–25 — FULL SCRIPTURE

“21 So get rid of all uncleanness and wickedness, and with a humble spirit receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.”

“22 Prove yourselves doers of the word, not merely listeners...

23 For the one who hears without obeying is like a man looking at his face in a mirror...

24 and forgetting what he looks like.

25 But the one who looks into the perfect law... and is an active doer... this one will be blessed in what he does.”

Message

James now says:

Receive the Word.

But receive it *with humility*.

Because the Word cannot grow in a proud heart.

Then he makes the final, climactic call:

Be doers, not hearers.

To hear and not do is to self-deceive.

It’s like looking in a mirror... and forgetting your own reflection.

Obedience is the heart of maturity.

STORY #2 — The obedience moment

That short story you shared earlier fits perfectly here:
How breakthrough often comes through simple obedience.

This is faith that acts.

CONCLUSION

James 1 calls us to:

1. Faith that stands

Through trials
With wisdom
With endurance

2. Faith that resists

Temptation
Anger
Doubt

3. Faith that acts

Receiving the Word
Doing the Word
Living the Word

This is mature Christianity.
This is authentic faith.
This is what the world must see in us.

LIFE GROUP LEADERS GUIDE

James 1 — Faith That Stands. Faith That Resists. Faith That Acts.

MOVEMENT 1 — FAITH THAT STANDS

James 1:2-12

James teaches that trials develop **endurance, maturity, and completeness**, we must **ask God for wisdom** in pressure moments, and both rich and poor must anchor identity in God rather than earthly status, which fades like a flower.

Questions

1. What does “consider it joy” really mean in trials? What does it NOT mean?
2. Where do you most need wisdom from God right now?
3. What trial is God using to produce endurance in you?
4. What do you rely on first during hardship — God, money, people, or control?

MOVEMENT 2 — FAITH THAT RESISTS

James 1:13–20

James says **temptation comes from within**, not from God. God is the giver of **every good and perfect gift** and never changes. We must be **quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger**.

Questions

1. How do you tell the difference between a **trial** and a **temptation**?
2. What desire or attitude tends to drag you into temptation?
3. How does remembering God's goodness help you resist temptation?
4. Which is hardest for you: listening well, speaking slowly, or staying calm?

MOVEMENT 3 — FAITH THAT ACTS

James 1:21–25

James calls us to **receive the Word with humility** and to **be doers of the Word**, not hearers who forget their reflection in the mirror.

Questions

1. What does receiving the Word "with humility" look like for you?
2. What has God shown you recently that you haven't acted on yet?
3. What is one practical step of obedience you can take this week?

Invite group members to share:

- "Where do I need God's strength to **stand**?"
- "Where do I need His help to **resist**?"
- "Where do I need courage to **act**?"