### James

## Chapter 1

1[From] James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus the Anointed One, to the tweleve tribes that are scattered about:  
  
Rejoice!  
  
2Consider it all a joyful experience, my brothers, when you have to endure various types of trials, 3because you know that this proving of your faith helps you to endure.  
  
4So, may your endurance reach its goal of making you perfect and complete in every way, lacking in nothing.  
  
  
5If any of you are lacking in wisdom, you should continue to ask God, and He will give it to you… He provides it easily and without any scolding!  
  
6However, you must believe [that you’ll receive it] and not have any doubts, for those who doubt are like waves of the sea that are driven and blown about by the wind. 7Such a person shouldn’t expect to receive anything at all from Jehovah, 8due to his unsureness and lack of faith.  
  
  
9Therefore, let the lowly brother boast of his high standing, 10and the rich one boast of his lowliness, because he too will pass away like a flower in a field... 11For when the sun comes up and puts out all its heat, the plant withers, the flower drops off, and its beauty fades… And this is how the rich man will fade away in his journey through life!  
  
12However, the man who endures his trials is blest, because after he’s been approved, he’ll receive the garland of life that the Lord promised to all those who love him.  
  
  
13So may no one who’s being tried ever say:  
  
 ‘I’m being tried by God!’  
  
...because God doesn’t send bad things to try us. In fact, He doesn’t try anyone!  
  
14Rather, we’re each being tried by our own desires, which bait us and lead us on. 15Then when our desires become pregnant, they give birth to sin... And once the sin is committed, it ends in death.  
  
  
16Don’t allow anyone to mislead you, my beloved brothers...  
  
17Every good deed and every perfect gift comes to us from above. It comes down from the Father of all light, who doesn’t change any more than a shadow when it turns. 18And because it was His Will, He gave birth to us through the message of truth, so that we could be some of the first fruitage of His creation.  
  
19Recognize this, my beloved brothers:  
  
Every man must be eager to listen... Slow to speak... And slow to get angry!  
  
20For a man’s anger doesn’t make him righteous with God.  
  
21So, once you’ve gotten rid of all the filth and badness, humbly allow the Word to grow within you… Because it can save your lives!  
  
22Yes, become a person who does what the Word [directs him to do]. Don’t [be someone who just] listens to it, [for people like that] are fooling themselves.  
  
23Because if anyone is a hearer but not a doer, he’s like the man who looks into a mirror at the face he was born with 24and carefully considers himself, then leaves and immediately forgets what sort of person he really is.  
  
25However, the one who gazes into the perfect Law that belongs to a free people – and then keeps on looking into it – isn’t someone who listens and forgets, but someone who takes action!  
  
This man will be blest in whatever he does!  
  
  
26Now, if any of you think of yourselves as devout, but you’re misleading your hearts by not putting a bridle on your tongues, your worship is worthless...  
  
27For what our God and Father views as clean, pure worship is this:  
  
[Providing aid] to orphans and widows when they’re in need, and keeping ourselves free from the stains of this system of things.