

**If you have been doing your homework, you have been working on memorizing James 1:2-11. They are wonderful verses, aren't they? Did you ever stop to think about the benefits of trials in your life. They should be something that we embrace knowing that they will perfect and complete you. Ask God, in faith, for wisdom as you walk through the trials in your life. Did you catch the blessing for enduring those trials in verse 12? You will be approved by God and receive the crown of life. Praise the Lord and bring on the trials! I want to hear well done, good and faithful servant (Matthew 25:21)! I want to to be found to be approved by God as a workman who doesn't need to be ashamed, rightly being able to handle the Word or truth (II Timothy 2:15)! Don't you?**

**These precious verses will be the focus of your study this week. If you have these verses hidden in your heart, and you understand what they mean, then you will understand what it means to have a faith that is real, a faith that works!**

**I pray that you will be blessed by what you are going to learn this week.**

#### DAY ONE

Are you ready to dig in? What treasures await you!

1. Make sure to begin your study with prayer. Seek God's guidance as you study and read His Word. Ask that the eyes of your understanding may be opened and that the Spirit will instruct you and lead you into truth.
2. Have you been working on memorizing James 1:2-11? If you have take time to recite that to the Lord and tell Him that this is what you want for your life. This week, why don't you memorize verse 12 to go along with it. Read through James 1:12 and record the promise to those who persevere under trials.
3. Read through James 1:1-12. Do you have any questions about these verses. If so record them now and see if, as you study this week, those questions are answered for you.

4. James 1:2-12 can be broken up into three different segments: 1:2-4; 1:5-8; 1:9-12. Your job this week will be to see how these sections relate to one another and how they fit into the purpose of James's letter. So let's begin with verses 2-4. We are going to begin by doing some word studies to have a complete understanding of what James is communicating to his readers.

#### **How To Complete Word Studies**

If you have a Strong's Concordance or a Complete Word Study New Testament, these will help you with the study. You can also use [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) on your computer. Type in book and chapter and when it comes up, next to each verse is a button that says tools. If you click on it, it will break down every verse word by word and it gives you a number (that is the Strong's number and the transliteration (the Greek word written in English letters). Record the number and the transliteration in your workbook. Then if you click on the number it will give you much information about the word including how it is translated, cross references as to where else that word is used in Scripture, and definitions for the word. Record the definitions and any pertinent cross references.

a. various (divers - KJV) - James 1:2

b. trials (temptations - KJV) - James 1:2

c. testing (trying - KJV) - James 1:3

d. endurance (patience - KJV) - James 1:3, 4

e. perfect - James 1:4

f. complete (entire - KJV) - James 1:4

5. Armed with those definitions, let's take some time to think through and answer some questions about what exactly the author is saying. Some of the questions may seem redundant, but be diligent in answering them because each one will make you view these verses from a different perspective.

a. How do trials relate to your faith?

b. What are trials **meant** to produce in your life, or put another way, what should be the end product of a trial in a believer's life? What is its purpose?



## DAY TWO

Today you will be working on some cross-references. Part of inductive study is allowing Scripture to interpret Scripture. One of the key tenants to Bible study is that the main things are the plain things and the plain things are the main things. When God wants you to understand something, He shows you the same information in other places and in other ways. Cross-referencing can then help you confirm a truth. It can keep you from misinterpreting what Scripture is saying because Scripture can never contradict Scripture. It may shed new light on the subject as it reveals different aspects or perceptions giving a depth to your understanding. It can also help illustrate a truth; therefore, cross-referencing is a vital tool to study. The more you read, study, and compare God's Word the more you will discover the clear truth that is presented throughout the Bible

Are you ready? Read James 1:2-4 to remind you what James has said. Now let's take a look at a few other passages that talk about the same concept. As you do this, take the time to do word studies of these passages, and then note how these other passages amplify, illustrate, clarify, or add to what James has said.

1. John 16:33

2. Romans 5:3-5

3. I Corinthians 10:13

4. I Peter 1:6-9

5. I Peter 4:12-14

6. I Peter 5:6-10



c. Job 12:13, 16

d. Isaiah 9:6

4. According to James 1:5-8, how does God respond to your request for wisdom?  
How do you need to ask?

5. In James 1:6 you are told that you are to ask with faith and without any doubting. The word “doubting” is #G1252 - diakrino - and it means to be divided (separated) in one’s mind. The word is in present tense which means that it an ongoing, continual, habitual mindset and not a single instance in a time of weakness. Instead we are to ask in faith. Read the following verses and record how they relate to James 1:6.

a. Hebrews 11:1

b. Hebrews 11:6

c. Matthew 7:7-11

d. Mark 11:22-24



6. Faith and belief come from the same root word - one being in verb form and the other used as a noun. The English transliteration is pistis, pisteuo - #G4102. It means a firm persuasion, a conviction based on hearing, producing a full acknowledgement of God's revelation or truth, a personal surrender to Him, and a conduct inspired by such surrender. Without the proof of action or conduct, there is no true faith.
7. According to James 1:5-8, how would describe a double-minded man? Is there any excuse to be double-minded in your relationship with God?

#### DAY FOUR

1. Let's start out the day by reading James 1:2-12.
2. What do verse 2 and verse 12 have in common? Does it seem to tie these verses together? If so why?
3. Can you see any relationship between verses 9-11 and "trials." This is not a "yes" or "no" answer. Explain.
  - a. Read through verses 9-11 and write out what is being contrasted.



b. perseveres (endureth - KJV) - present tense - a habitual lifestyle

c. approved (tried - KJV)

5. Using just James 1:12 answer these questions.

a. Who is blessed?

b. What will he receive?

c. When will he receive it?

d. Why will he receive it?

e. How is he described at the end of the verse?

f. What makes a man persevere under trials?

6. Read Matthew 5:10-12 and Luke 6:20-25 and write out what you read about the one who is blessed. How does this compare to what you have read in James?

*Tomorrow we will take a look at crowns throughout Scripture. What are the crowns mentioned and what will we do with them? Are they important? Stay tuned and we'll find out.*

DAY FIVE

1. Today you are going to look at the verses that deal with crowns. As you read these verses, record what crown is being mentioned, who receives it and why, how it is described, what we will do with the crowns we receive, and any other important information you may find. Do word studies on any words that are unfamiliar.

When will you get these rewards?

a. I Corinthians 3:10-15

b. II Corinthians 5:10

What will we do with these crowns?

a. Revelation 3:11

b. Revelation 4:10-11

What types of crowns are rewarded?

a. James 1:12 (Look up the word for "crown.")

b. Revelation 2:10

c. I Corinthians 9:24-27 (Look up the word for disqualified - castaway, KJV.)

d. II Timothy 4:8 (Look up the word for award - give, KJV.)

e. I Peter 5:1-4

f. I Thessalonians 2:13-20

2. Now for a little application. If you were to stand before God's throne today, would you have any crowns to cast at His feet? What crowns would you have and why do you think you would have them?

3. You can spend some time seeing what your commentaries have to say about James 1:1-12. Please don't go any further than that! Write any insights on a separate piece of paper if you need more room.

4. How about adding to your memorization. You should have James 1:2-12 down. Let's add 13-15. What wonderful verses to have in your mind when you are going through temptations. When those trials, temptations, and tests assault you, you should be able to quote these Scriptures and bring strength and resolve to your life when you most need it. That is why God has given us His Word. It is our one and only offensive weapon to use as we go out into the battle every day!