



I. Triumphing in Trials

James 1:1-12

- Author: Most likely the brother of Jesus. Written around AD48
 - Theme: Wholeness/Integrity in Christian living - Living like people rescued by Jesus. Very practical – 60 commands.
 - Trials – external events that come upon us through no fault of our own
 - A surprising attitude commanded: ‘Consider it **pure joy**’ v2
 - “The mature Christian sees something in trials that the immature doesn’t” (Adams)
 - Since something glorious has happened to the Christian, there should be something different about them facing hardship
- 1. Listen to Truth not Feelings v2**
- Not saying we should “enjoy trials”, or “feel joyful”, but the Christian is not at the mercy of their emotions
 - Key word – ‘Consider’ = to think based on facts not feelings
 - Consider what God is doing v3. Consider who God is, and what he has already done
 - We need to work hard so that our responses are shaped by our relationship to God, and not simply our emotions.
- 2. Go where God is going v3-4**
- ‘testing... developing perseverance’ v3 ‘so that you may be mature and complete’ v5
 - God is at work in you developing you, strengthening you
 - ‘complete’ ≠ perfect; means rounded, balanced, making progress in every area
 - In every incident God is at work – how will you respond? Will you aim for Christ-likeness or reinforce wrong habits?
 - Don’t seek wrong shortcuts out of trials – the butterfly needs to fight out of the chrysalis
- 3. Ask for wisdom to fight doubt v5-8**
- Wisdom = knowledge applied to the situation/trial
 - Ask God to help you see what you need to see so you can trust him amidst troubles
 - God is generous and doesn’t hold it against us that we come so often (v6)
 - Ask sincerely, prepared to put it into practice (v8)
- 4. Don’t compare v9-11**
- Comparing ourselves with others exacerbates our sense of trial
 - We forget that ‘blessings’ have their own temptations/trials/worries
 - External circumstances can change very quickly, but godliness is forever
- 5. Fuel up on God’s Promises v12**
- v12 – ‘a crown of life’ for those who persevere
 - The richness of what the Christian has helps us to cope with the trials we face
 - If you are uncertain about God’s promises you will struggle in trials.
 - Stock up on God’s promises and on your understanding of God’s character



new life fellowship

SERVING JESUS CHRIST THE KING

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Sunday 22nd April '12

Notices

Sunday	Evening service at Trinity Hall	8pm
Tues	Bible study at Robert & Judith's Study 8 in Proverbs book - The Art of Living	8pm
Fri	Galway focus evening - Cullybackey	8pm
Sun 29	VENUE CHANGE - we will be meeting back in the Day Centre	10.15am
May		
Sat 12	Ladies are invited to Breakfast with Catherine Campbell in Faughan RP church Theme: Positively Precious - Discovering what you are really worth	9.30am
Sun 27	Bready Praise Service “Running the Race - how God’s song-book keeps us on track.”	7pm

News

Stephen Steele is with us for the next two months as part of his studies at the college.

Christianity Explored



A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus, and to find answers to your questions the Bible and Christianity.

- You don’t need to know anything about the Bible
- You won’t be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you’re interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark

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