

Sunday 17 February 2008

[James 1:1-12](#)

James 1:1-12 From James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ: Greetings to all God's people scattered over the whole world. My friends, consider yourselves fortunate when all kinds of trials come your way, for you know that when your faith succeeds in facing such trials, the result is the ability to endure. Make sure that your endurance carries you all the way without failing, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. But if any of you lack wisdom, you should pray to God, who will give it to you; because God gives generously and graciously to all. But when you pray, you must believe and not doubt at all. Whoever doubts is like a wave in the sea that is driven and blown about by the wind. If you are like that, unable to make up your mind and undecided in all you do, you must not think that you will receive anything from the Lord. Those Christians who are poor must be glad when God lifts them up, and the rich Christians must be glad when God brings them down. For the rich will pass away like the flower of a wild plant. The sun rises with its blazing heat and burns the plant; its flower falls off, and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way the rich will be destroyed while they go about their business. Happy are those who remain faithful under trials, because when they succeed in passing such a test, they will receive as their reward the life which God has promised to those who love him.

Are you discouraged?

Don't get discouraged when troubles and difficulties are plenty. Wow, this is a difficult one. I don't know about you, but when everything goes wrong, and nothing works out the way I would like it to, I often find myself getting discouraged, and blue. Why me? Can't something good happen to me for a change?

Does this sound familiar, or am I the only one feeling like this? Do problems and uncertainties in your family get you upset, and do you sometimes feel unappreciated and forgotten? Do you feel taken for granted, or are people always assuming things on your behalf, not really interested in your opinion? Have your dreams been destroyed, and your feelings been ignored? Have you been hurt, and are you sometimes yearning for someone's acceptance, and love? Does it feel like life is just one long up-hill struggle? Well, does it?

Then you are not alone. Even in the days when James wrote this scripture, he knew that life very seldom works out as we plan it, and very often we will get disappointed and discouraged by what is going on. But he is telling us not to give up, and to trust in the Lord. He believed very strongly that when things are going wrong, God is just giving us an opportunity to grow. When things go wrong, pray, and believe that God will use this situation to make you stronger, and learn endurance. This will happen, and should we endure in doing what is good and right, we will be rewarded.

Thus, when things go wrong, we need to pray. Not as much for the problems and afflictions to go away, but for wisdom, wisdom to handle even the worst of situations in such a manner, that God will be glorified. And then, trust in God to do a miracle. God will never leave you, nor forsake you.

* Should you wish to write me, and are in need of someone who would listen and pray with you... Please do. david@davidniebuhr.com

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