

**Introduction**

1. Who is he? - verse 1
    - Half brother of Jesus
    - Leader of the Jerusalem council - Acts 15
    - Josephus said he was martyred AD 62
    - Doulos - describes self
      - Not a made slave - a born slave
  2. Who are they? - verse 1
    - 12 Tribes - New Israel
      - Some expectation that Israel be restored as 12 tribes returned
      - 12 = Mt. 19:28
      - Scattered - by persecution
        - by dispersion
      - A letter to be read and passed around
  3. The issue - trials
  4. All men suffer
  5. "Just have faith in God" - really?
  6. On the other hand - God's word has something to say to us in hour of trial. A Christian meets trials differently.
  7. Rom. 5:3; 1 Peter 1:6; James 1:1-12. Here are Four things to do that will help
  8. A Process
    - Rom. 5:3-4 - Paul says it
    - 1 Pet. 1:6-7 - Peter says it
    - James 1:1-8 - James says it
- Have:

**I. A Joyful Attitude - "Count it all joy"**

1. Mike Griffin - Youth Director at Morningside - "count it all joy."
2. What are these "divers temptations?"
  - A. Divers - manifold, many-colored
  - B. Temptations - calamities
    - when a small bird leaves nest
    - process by which silver or gold were refined
  - C. "Fall" - an external, unexpected thing
3. Note: not "if," but "when"
  - A. **Trials will come:**
    - human nature being what it is
    - Satan being who he is
    - Rock/ Sand Parable - when winds came, when rains came, when the floods came
  - B. Virtually anything can try your faith - not just big stuff
    - trying thing to be a Christian parent
    - trying thing to be a Christian husband
    - trying thing to be a Christian and sick

- trying thing to be a Christian in leadership
- trying thing to be a Christian when disappointed
- 4. Count it all joy - your estimation, attitude is Joy
  - A. On the ledger sheet of our mind - joy
  - B. Example - Paul and Silas - not get me out!
  - C. Sulk, groan, grow afraid, complain
- 5. Not easy... but outlook determines outcome
- 6. How can I count it all joy?

## **II. An Understanding Mind - “knowing this” (3)**

1. Trust in the Lord and lean not to own understanding. -but can know some things.
2. Four things either stated or implied:
  - A. Know your faith will always be tested:
    - 1) Works for us, not against us
    - 2) God works - for us, in us, through us
  - B. Know the progression, the process - the “Trail of trial”
    - 1) Logical progression here
    - 2) Trying brings patience, patience brings perfection
  - C. Know the end, the goal is perfect, entire, wanting nothing
    - 1) To purify faith - burning off the dross of self
    - 2) To produce patience - patience with people, steadfastness in circumstances, staying power
    - 3) To perfect character - let patience run full course
  - D. Know who is behind it all - God perfect faith. He which hath begun a good work through it, can only do this if you keep asking, allow Him\*

## **III. A Surrendered Will - “let something happen” (4)**

1. Have its full work - let it complete you
2. Two examples:
  - A. Jesus - “not my will but thine.” He “let” the perfect will of God be done.
  - B. Paul - two parts
    - before saved - “kick against pricks” - his circumstances were great, will was opposed to God’s
    - in prison - circumstances terrible/ trial. He “let” patience have work. The things which have happened have “fallen out”
3. Must realize that mature Christians are an end product of testing
  - A. Christianity is not a ticket to fantasy island
  - B. In the testing we need “let” -surrendered will
    - 1) Not a kicking against the pricks will
    - 2) Not an I know better way will
    - 3) But, not my will but thine
4. Let it teach you to be a better person -
  - birds build - if you tear down, will build again... but a little higher, more inaccessible
5. Suffer from spiritual diabetes - too much sugar. What makes a man out of boy is hardship.

#### IV. A Believing Heart (5-9)

1. The commodity which sometimes makes the difference is wisdom.
  - A. Paul is always asking for wisdom
  - B. Not education
  - C. It is a spiritual quality based on the fear of the Lord
    - it is insight into will
    - it is see trials in right light (illustration - spanking Stephanie - if only she could see through my eyes)
2. Encourages us to Ask - only time some pray is in trouble.
  - A. His disposition is to give - upbraideth not
  - B. His disposition is to give liberally
  - C. Believe He will give
3. Don't waver in asking (6-8) - speaks of trust
  - A. What type doubts are we talking about here?
    - A) some of us just do not believe God will give us what we need
    - B) They think their needs not worthy of God's attention
    - C) Some dispute with God wondering why He allowed the problem to begin with
  - B. Describes a wavering - double-souled man
    - 1) Double-souled
    - 2) Unstable in all ways - not just asking
    - 3) Not for God today - someone else tomorrow
    - 4) Speaks of commitment - indecision re God's way or yours
    - 5) An example of unwavering soul is Job
    - 6) Way you ask shows character
  - C. God is a Giving God
    - 1) He desires to give
    - 2) But must be totally committed to Him (not to gifts)
    - 3) Testing of Job - His commitment was the issue
4. Need a Heart
  - A. I don't know how I'm gonna handle this
  - B. I don't know what's to become of me
  - C. With God's help I'll make it - He and I will never be severed

#### Conclusion:

1. When the heat comes up - the truth comes out:
  - A. Parable of house on Rock/ Sand
  - B. Made of wax - melt
    - Made of straw - burn
    - Made of clay - harden
    - Made of meat - fry
2. Under same conditions
  - One made harder
  - One made better
  - One made bitter

One made stronger  
Christian vs lost man!

3. **All men suffer**: difference between lost and saved:

Joyful Attitude  
Understanding Mind  
Surrendered Will  
Believing Heart