

Your Receptiveness to the Word of God

(James 1:19-21)

James is a very practical book which is written to challenge the believer to go on to maturity in their day to day walk with the Lord. In this first chapter, we are told that the various trials set before us are for our maturity, so that we can become what God has intended – to grow up into Him in all things (Eph. 4:15). Our choice is to embrace the trial so this intended purpose can be fulfilled. To do so however, we must be receptive to His word.

His WILL is Directed by God’s Word (Chapter 1)

I. A PROPER Evaluation of Trials (1:1-18)

A. The Appropriate Response to Trials from WITHOUT (1:2-12)

- _____: A Deliberate Settled Conviction (1:2)
- _____: A Determined Sought Out Understanding (1:3)
- _____: A Dependent Submissive Will (1:4)
- _____: A Deepened Spiritual Relationship (1:5)

1. Do Not DOUBT His Character

When faced with a trial in life (vs. 2-12), the temptation will be for us to flee it (vs. 13-16). Instead of running from our trials, the Word of God admonishes the believer to embrace them, as we draw upon His character and word for wisdom and encouragement. As we do so we will recognize that His divine purpose for trials is to bring us to maturity and growth.

B. The Appropriate Response to Trials from WITHIN (1:13-18)

1. Do Not be DRAWN AWAY by your own Desires (1:13-15)

Facing the FALLACY (1:13a)

God is not the SOURCE of Temptation

Facing the FACTS

 God is _____ (1:13)

 Man is _____ (1:14)

- The SOURCE of Temptation
- The FORCE of Temptation (1 Peter 2:11)
- The Downward COURSE of Temptation

2. Do Not be DECEIVED by Wandering Away from Him (1:16)

3. Remember /Reflect /Rest in His Worthy Character! (1:17-18)

Reflecting on what God has Given

	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____
	_____		_____

II. A **POSITIVE** Response to the Word of God (1:21-27)

A. RECEPTIVENESS to His Word (1:19-21)

⁴  Jas 1:19-21 So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; (20) for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. (21) Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

1. An _____ to Comprehend

 **Hear:** “to hear” has a range of meanings in the scripture - from simply hearing something audibly; to actually consider, comprehend, and fully perceive what is being communicated.

-  John 5:24
-  Romans 10:17
-  1 Thessalonians 2:13
-  Acts 28:26
-  2 Timothy 4:3-4

In Luke 8 Jesus described the receptiveness to the Word of God in the parable of the sower and the soil. “He that has ears to hear, let him hear!” Luke 8:8

- The HARD Soil – _____
- The ROCKY Soil – _____
- The THORNY Soil – _____
- The FRUITFUL Soil – _____

What kind of soil describes YOU?

2. A _____ to Lay Aside Distractions

 **Lay Apart:** (G659) apotithēmi: to put off, cast off, or lay aside. Vine points out that it is always used in the middle voice, thus – “to put off from oneself”.

-  Hebrews 12:2
-  Ephesians 4:22
-  1 Peter 2:1-2

3. A Tender Heart of _____

 **Meekness:** “it is that temper of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting. It is only the humble heart which is also meek, and which, as such, does not fight against God and more or less struggle and contend with Him. Described negatively, meekness is the opposite of self-assertiveness and self-interest; it is equanimity of spirit that is neither elated nor cast down, simply because it is not occupied with self at all” (W.E. Vine).

How are YOU responding to the trials God has set before you?

What is the condition of your heart?