# **Under Pressure**

James 1:1-4

# Context

The writer introduced himself modestly. James was the half-brother of Jesus ([Matt. 13:55](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt13.55)). James may have been among Jesus’ family who at first opposed him ([Mark 3:20–21](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mk3.20-21), [31–35](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mk3.31-35)). But after Jesus’ ascension, James became one leader in the Jerusalem church ([Acts 15:13](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac15.13); [Gal. 1:19](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ga1.19)). The Apostle Paul calls him a “pillar” in the church ([Gal. 2:9](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ga2.9)). James’s as “a servant [or slave] of God,” challenges us to considers our positions as one of humble service to our master, the Lord Jesus.

James addresses his letter to the “twelve tribes in the Dispersion [or in the scattering]” ([Jas 1:1](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jas1.1)), which either refers to ethnically Jewish believers or the Christian Church as a new Israel. Either way, Christians are estranged from the world. The world is not our home. We are exiles. We are on a pilgrimage to our home.

James writes to show how vital a living, visible, productive faith is to live in a fallen world. This first section addresses a big question.

# The Question

##### How does a Christian cope with trials?

# Bible Verse

**James 1:1–4 CSB**

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ: To the twelve tribes dispersed abroad. Greetings.   
  
Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials,   
  
because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance.   
  
And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

##### Step #1:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ faith under trial produces \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ faith, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (v. 3)

* Jesus warned his followers they would have ‘trouble’ ([John 16:33](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn16.33)). Paul likewise told his converts they would ‘go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God’ ([Acts 14:22](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ac14.22)).

##### Step #2: \_\_\_ \_ perseverance produces \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (v. 4)

## So What?

##### \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it! \_\_\_\_\_!

1. **Your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
2. **Your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
3. **God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
4. **We should be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
5. **You \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
   1. Notice James’s use of the work perfect (**James 1:17, 25**).

**Revelation 21:1–8 CSB**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.   
  
I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.   
  
Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God’s dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God.   
  
He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away.   
  
Then the one seated on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new.” He also said, “Write, because these words are faithful and true.”   
  
Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will freely give to the thirsty from the spring of the water of life.   
  
The one who conquers will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son.   
  
But the cowards, faithless, detestable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars—their share will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

##### Joy differs from happiness.

Instead, James is commending a conscious embrace of a Christian understanding of life.

**Romans 8:18 CSB**

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us.

##### Joy may be defined as a settled contentment in every situation or “an unnatural reaction of deep, steady and unadulterated \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ trust in God.”

When trials come, “don’t resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends” (Phillips).

# Pray

“Dear Jesus, I confess I am a sinner and deserve judgment and hell, but I believe You love, came to this earth for me, lived a sinless life, and died on the cross for my sins. I believe God raised you from the dead to forgive me. Please forgive me, come into my life, and grant me eternal life in You name. Help me to glorify you in all I do. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

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Grant, Almighty God, that since the depravity of our nature is so great that we cannot bear prosperity without some wantonness of the flesh immediately raging in us, and without becoming even arrogant against you—O grant that we may profit under the trials of the cross. And when you have blessed us, may we with lowly hearts, renouncing our perverseness, submit ourselves to you, and not only bear your yoke submissively, but proceed in this obedience all our life, and so contend against all temptations as never to glory in ourselves, and feel also convinced, that all true and real glory is laid up for us in you, until we shall enjoy it in your celestial kingdom, through Christ our Lord. Amen. - John Calvin