

**Faith in the Midst of This Trial
(Responding to the Coronavirus Crisis)
James 1:1-6
Pastor Byron Hand**



Introduction to book of James:

James 1:1 - James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings.

James 1:2-6 (ESV) - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

Phillips Paraphrase: ²⁻⁸When all kinds of trials and temptations crowd into your lives my brothers, don't resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends! Realise that they come to test your faith and to produce in you the quality of endurance. But let the process go on until that endurance is fully developed, and you will find you have become men of mature character with the right sort of independence. And if, in the process, any of you does not know how to meet any particular problem he has only to ask God—who gives generously to all men without making them feel foolish or guilty—and he may be quite sure that the necessary wisdom will be given him. But he must ask in sincere faith without secret doubts as to whether he really wants God's help or not. The man who trusts God, but with inward reservations, is like a wave of the sea, carried forward by the wind one moment and driven back the next.

You may have a thousand questions swirling around in your mind about this COVID-19 crisis. James addresses the world of crises, trials, problems.

1. What do I need to REMEMBER about TRIALS? (1:2)

- a. Trials are INEVITABLE - 1:2a
- b. Trials are VARIABLE - 1:2b
- c. Trials are UNPREDICTABLE - 1:2c
- d. Trials are PURPOSEFUL - 1:2d

2. Why do Trials and Difficulties Come into my Life? What is their purpose? (1:3-4)

- Here is what God says:
 - a. Trials TEST my Faith – 1:3a

 - b. Trials DEVELOP my Endurance – 1:3b

 - c. Trials MATURE my Character – 1:4

3. How am I Supposed to Respond during this CURRENT (or any) Crisis?

- a. PRAISE - 1:1

- b. PRAYER - 1:5

- c. PERSEVERANCE - 1:6-8

- d. PASSING IT ON

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