

# JAMES – PRACTICAL LESSONS IN SPIRITUAL MATURITY

## JAMES 5:19-21 AND JAMES 1:1-4

### 1. REVIEW – “RESCUING THE WAYWARD”

#### A. IN TODAY'S SCRIPTURE JAMES ENCOURAGES BELIEVERS TO RESCUE THE WAYWARD.

1. James 5:19-20 (NLT) “My dear brothers and sisters, if someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back, you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins.”

#### B. THE SUMMARY OF LAST WEEK'S LESSON IS:

1. RESTORATION SHOULD BE OUR PLAN.
2. A CAUTION SHOULD BE OUR CALL.
3. CONVERSION SHOULD BE OUR GOAL.
4. THE RESULTS OF RESTORATION:

- a. James 5:19-20 (NASB) “My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”

### 2. CONCLUSION: IF YOU'RE CONSIDERING GETTING INVOLVED IN THE LIFE OF A STRAYING BELIEVER WITH CORRECTION:

#### A. FIRST... CHECK YOUR MOTIVES:

1. MAKE CERTAIN YOU'RE ACTING OUT OF GENUINE LOVE FOR THAT PERSON.

#### B. SECOND... BE SURE YOU'VE IMMERSSED YOURSELF IN PRAYER.

#### C. THIRD... BE READY TO APPLY PATIENCE AS YOU ENDURE A LONG PROCESS.

1. BECAUSE MOST WAYWARD SAINTS DO NOT SUDDENLY “TURN” AROUND BECAUSE OF A TAP ON THEIR SHOULDER.

- a. IT CAN TAKE A LONG, LONG TIME.

#### D. FOURTH... REMEMBER... “BUT GOD”.

1. YOU ARE NOT IN THE “MINISTRY OF RECONCILLATION” ALONE!

- a. 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (NASB) “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,”

### 3. “TRIALS”

#### A. DISCUSS: WHERE DID WE GET THE IDEA THAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD NOT EXPERIENCE “TRIALS”?

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### B. THE BIBLICAL REALITY OF “TRIALS”.

1. **John 16:33 (NLT)** “I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. **Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.**”

### C. RATHER THAN PROMISING AN ABSENCE OF “TRIALS”, SCRIPTURE PROMISES THAT GOD WILL NOT ALLOW BELIEVERS TO BE TEMPTED BEYOND THEIR ABILITY TO ENDURE.

1. **1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB)** “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”

### D. ULTIMATELY, THE BELIEF IN AN ABSENCE OF “TRIALS” OFTEN STEMS FROM A MISUNDERSTANDING OF, OR FOCUS ON, ONLY SPECIFIC, COMFORTABLE ASPECTS OF SCRIPTURE... RATHER THAN THE COMPREHENSIVE TEACHING ON: “TRIALS”, SUFFERING, AND DEATH.

### E. CHRONOLOGICAL EXAMPLES OF “TRIALS” IN THE BIBLE:

1. **ABRAHAM**: FACED THE TRIAL OF LEAVING HIS HOMELAND (GENESIS 12), LONG-TERM WAITING FOR THE PROMISED SON (GENESIS 15-17), AND THE ULTIMATE TEST OF SACRIFICING ISAAC (GENESIS 22).
2. **JOSEPH**: FACED BETRAYAL BY HIS BROTHERS, SLAVERY IN EGYPT, AND FALSE IMPRISONMENT DESPITE HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS (GENESIS 37-39).
3. **MOSES**: FACED THE TRIALS OF LEAVING EGYPT, MANAGING A REBELLIOUS PEOPLE IN THE WILDERNESS, AND HIS OWN SELF-DOUBT.
4. **SAMSON**: FACED TRIALS STEMMING FROM HIS PERSONAL WEAKNESSES AND FAILURES BEFORE HIS ULTIMATE DEATH.
5. **DAVID**: FACED TRIALS AS A FUGITIVE FROM KING SAUL, FOLLOWED BY IMMENSE FAMILY TURMOIL AND PERSONAL SIN.
6. **ELIJAH**: FACED THE TRIALS OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE, FEAR, AND DEEP DEPRESSION.
7. **JEREMIAH**: FACED PERSECUTION, INCLUDING BEING IMPRISONED, BEATEN, AND THROWN INTO A WELL FOR HIS PROPHETIC MESSAGE.
8. **DANIEL**: FACED IMMENSE PRESSURE TO BREAK HIS RELIGIOUS LAWS AND WAS EVENTUALLY THROWN INTO A LIONS' DEN.
9. **JOB**: FACED THE SYSTEMATIC LOSS OF HIS WEALTH, CHILDREN, AND HEALTH.
10. **HOSEA**: WAS ASKED BY GOD TO MARRY (AND FORGIVE) GOMER, A PROSTITUTE AS A SYMBOLIC REPRESENTATION OF GOD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNFAITHFUL NATION OF ISRAEL.
11. **JOHN THE BAPTIST**: FACED PRISON AND DEATH
12. **JESUS**: FACED THE ULTIMATE TEMPTATION, INTENSE PERSECUTION, AND THE FINAL TRIAL OF CRUCIFIXION AND PHYSICAL DEATH.
13. **PAUL**: FACED SHIPWRECKS, IMPRISONMENTS, BEATINGS, AND A PERSISTENT "THORN IN THE FLESH"
14. **STEPHEN**: WAS STONED TO DEATH

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15. **THE DISCIPLES**: WERE ALL PERSECUTED AND 10 OF THE 12 WERE MARTYRED.

- F. **CONCLUSION**: WE FACE “**TRIALS**” IN THIS LIFE TO MAKE US **MORE** LIKE JESUS CHRIST.
1. THAT IS A **PROCESS**, AND IT IS CALLED **SANCTIFICATION**.