

# LIVING LIFE TOGETHER THE LETTER OF JAMES BACKGROUND (1)

## Subject Matter

- “A belief that behaves”
- James and Paul. The essence of faith - living by it

## Format & Purpose

A sermon – guidance on Christian behaviour for sharing among a range of early (Jewish) Christian churches and us today!

# THE LETTER OF JAMES

## BACKGROUND (2)

### The Author?

James, a half-brother of the Lord – leading light of the early church. Martyred AD 62.

### The Problems?

- Facing trials and temptations.
- Difficulty in putting faith into practice
- Fraught church relationships
- Careless and malicious talk
- Worldliness
- Reliance on own wisdom and resources, rather than God

# PERSEVERING UNDER TRIAL

– JAMES 1: 1-8: 12-18

**“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds.”**

**James 1:2**

- **Attitude to life’s trials/tribulations determines how/whether our faith will cope.**
- **“Trials” = “Testing with a purpose”**
- **Who/what is tested should emerge stronger from the process.**

# PERSEVERING UNDER TRIAL

## – JAMES 1: 1-8: 12-18

### The Results of Testing

- “Perseverance” = Endurance
- Putting up with things? NO!
- Turning personal trials/difficulties into something worthwhile/of lasting value. YES!
- “Mature/Complete/Not lacking anything”
- i.e. Spiritual Maturity and Insight

# PERSEVERING UNDER TRIAL

## – JAMES 1: 1-8: 12-18

### The Source of Spiritual insight

“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God” V. 5.

- *Wisdom* - Practical guidance and knowhow for living a good and fulfilled life, founded upon trust and reliance on God
- Believing, Expectant Prayer
- Our Creator, Father God can be relied upon. V. 17-18

# PERSEVERING UNDER TRIAL

– JAMES 1: 1-8: 12-18

## The Result of Faith and Trust

“Blessed is the one who endures.....he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.” V. 12

- Trials/testing an inevitable part of life in an imperfect world
- Either faith buckles under pressure - Or we can become stronger in faith and character
- The prospect of the winner’s crown - “Well done, good and faithful servant!” Matt. 25:21.

# PERSEVERING UNDER TRIAL

– JAMES 1: 1-8: 12-18

## Temptation

- Life's Trials - Either an opportunity for progress Or a temptation to go backwards in faith
- God does not ordain our trials and tribulations
- Whether we succumb to temptation is down to us; our personal responsibility.

# PERSEVERING UNDER TRIAL

## – JAMES 1: 1-8: 12-18

### Our Life Choices/Response to Life's Trials

Either v.12. Testing; endurance; life. Or v.15. Desire; sin; death.

### The challenge

- How strong and enduring is our faith?
- “Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?”
- “We have an anchor that keeps the soul....Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!”