

Testing Your Faith

James 1:1-18





Charles Blondin – Niagara Falls – July 15, 1859

OPENING MESSAGE OF JAMES

- **Temptation** – How will we handle Temptation and Testing of Our Faith?
- James' primary focus is on the testing of a person's faithfulness from within rather than without.
- The contest of faith is not against the powers external to ourselves, but against our internal vulnerability to personal desires that derail our faith and divide our focus between God and the world.

FAITH

- **Hebrews 11:1** - Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
- **Hebrews 11:6** - 6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

JOY IN TRIALS

- **James 1:2-4** - 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

JOY IN TRIALS

- **Romans 5:3-4** - 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope...

ASK GOD FOR WISDOM

- **James 1:5** - 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

ASK GOD FOR WISDOM

- **Proverbs 2:6** - 6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding...
- **Proverbs 3:6** - 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

OVERCOMING DOUBT

- **James 1:6-8** - 6 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. 7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.



FAITH AND DOUBT

Doubt sees obstacles,
Faith sees the way!

Doubt sees the darkest night,
Faith sees the day!

Doubt dreads to take a step,
Faith soars on high!

Doubt questions, "Who believes?"
Faith answers, "I!"

OVERCOMING DOUBT

- **Matthew 7:7-8** - 7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

RICH OR POOR?

- **James 1:9-11** - 9 Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, 10 and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. 11 For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

RICH OR POOR?

- **Acts 10:34** - 34 So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.
- **Galatians 3:28** - 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

RECEIVE THE CROWN OF LIFE

- **James 1:12** - 12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

RECEIVE THE CROWN OF LIFE

- **1 Corinthians 9:25-27** - 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

RESISTING TEMPTATION

- **James 1:13-15** - 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

RESISTING TEMPATION

- **1 Corinthians 10:13** - 13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

EVERY GOOD GIFT FROM ABOVE

- **James 1:16-17** - 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.