

Open

Would you agree or disagree with the statement, "Life is 10 percent what happens to you and 90 percent how you respond to what happens to you"?

[James 1:1-18](#) (New International Version)

¹James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,
To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:
Greetings.

Trials and Temptations

²Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. ⁶But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

⁹The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. ¹⁰But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. ¹¹For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.

¹²Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

¹³When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. ¹⁵Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

¹⁶Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. ¹⁷Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

¹⁸He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

Explore

1. Who wrote this letter? ([1:1](#))

2. To whom was this letter written? ([1:1](#))

3. What is produced when our faith is tested? ([1:3-4](#))

4. How do you get wisdom when going through a trial? _____

5. What effect does doubt have on a person when he or she prays? ([1:6-8](#))

6. What does it say about a man who perseveres?

7. From where does temptation come? ([1:13-15](#))

8. Does God tempt anyone with evil?

9. From where do all good and perfect gifts come? ([1:16-17](#))

Reflect

10. What trials and difficulties have you experienced during your life?

11. Why does God allow people to go through trials and difficulties?

12. Do you find it harder or easier to pray when going through a trial?

13. Verse 17 says that God does not change, do you find this comforting? why?

Apply

14. What do you believe God is trying to teach you this week through the trials and situations you are experiencing or have experienced?

