

Thought for the day – James

James 1:2-3 NIVUK

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters: whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.

James writing to his readers who are suffering severe persecution, doesn't comfort them, or tell them not to worry – he just points to how God uses our circumstances to build our faith – is your faith growing in all circumstance, regardless of the trails you face? Pray for those who are struggling at this time.

James 1:4 NIVUK

Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

Through testing we persevere and through perseverance we reach maturity – how do you view testing – as an injustice, or a way to grow? Give thanks that testing helps us to become mature and complete in Jesus.

James 1:5-6 NIVUK

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

It is incredible that all we need to do to gain wisdom is to ask God – how often we fail to act on God's promises! Have you asked for wisdom? Pray that God will make us wise as we follow Jesus.

James 1:9-10 NIVUK

Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. But the rich should take pride in their humiliation – since they will pass away like a wildflower.

Kingdom values set earthly principles on its head; Jesus turns our world upside down. James observes that riches pass away in due time and he exalts the poor. Is this how you see the world, through the eyes of Jesus? Pray for those who live in poverty, especially those unable to work at this time.

James 1:12 NIVUK

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

James' addresses those who are facing death because of their faith, encouraging them to persevere, to gain the prize, the crown of life – this is a promise to all who love the Lord. Give thanks that God promises a crown of life to all believers.

James 1:19-20 NIVUK

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

James highlights somethings that will help us to produce righteousness – are you quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry – pray God will help us to be patient with others.

James 1:22-24 NIVUK

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

James points out the foolishness of listening to the word and then not doing what it tells us – do you listen and forget, or listen and act? Pray God will help you to do His will and follow His teaching.
