

One Step to Freedom
Chapter 3: Trials and Temptations

Lesson 1 Part 1
Victory through Obedience

“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord promised to those who love Him” (James 1:12).

In the next several lessons we are going to study the book of James to help us learn how to study the Bible on our own. **The Bible says that the more we read and obey God’s Word, the more victorious we will be over our sinful nature (2 Peter 1:3).** We will have deliverance from bondage to drugs and alcohol. There will be a change in the desires of our hearts—desiring God instead of drugs and alcohol.

Here are some important facts concerning James:

- This book may be the first inspired writing of the New Testament (45 AD)
- James, who wrote this letter, is the half brother of Jesus (Galatians 1:19) and was an important leader in the early church in Jerusalem (Acts 15:13). This James is not James the apostle, who was the brother of John (author of Revelation, gospel of John, etc.) mentioned many times in the gospel and who was martyred by Herod in Acts 12:2.
- The theme of James is faith in action. It has a strong Jewish tone as it was written to believers who were mostly Jews at this early time of church history. (Paul’s ministry to the non-Jewish world began approximately two years after this letter.)
- The theme of James 1:1-18 deals with trials and temptations. If we look at the original Greek, the word used for trials in verse 2 and temptation in verse 12 is the same. In verse 2 it is used in the context of a beneficial trial that is to build up your Christian character. In verse 12, it is used to describe an unbeneficial trial, one that can bring no good, the trial brought on by your own sins.

When studying the Word of God, it is good to ask questions of the text to get a better understanding.

1. Read James 1:1-4. What is tested when we go through various trials?

2. What should our attitude towards trials be?

3. What do trials produce in our lives?

4. What does patience produce?
