

## **James 1:1-18** Enduring Trials

### **Introduction**

**Question:** How do you normally feel and respond when you must face a trial?

It is not easy to be a Christian, least of all in Jerusalem, where James lives. Traditional Jews are scandalized at the claim that an executed criminal is the Messiah, and they have killed some Christians and persecuted others. During times of trial, believers may take comfort in the certainty of God's goodness and draw strength from God's Word.

### **James 1:1-18**

**Question:** Why should we respond to trials with joy (vv. 2-4)?

**Question:** Suffering is apparently the way in which God produces perseverance and maturity in us. Why do you think trials are so effective at this and nothing else is so effective?

**Question:** In the middle of discussing trials, James mentions wisdom (v. 5). What does wisdom have to do with facing trials? Why should we pray for wisdom, not just perseverance?

**Question:** What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge?

**Question:** When we ask for wisdom, why is it crucial to believe that God always hears and answers us (vv. 5-8)?

**Question:** Why is it important that believers do not mingle worldly wisdom with God's wisdom in dealing with trials?

**Question:** How is poverty and wealth potentially a trial that can bring perseverance and maturity (vv. 9-11)?

**Question:** What connection does temptation have with trials (vv. 13-16)?

**Question:** What connection is there between verses 13-16 and 17-18?

### **Reflection**

What are some of the ways that Satan can deceive us when we go through trials? How can we be more alert to these ploys?