

## Introduction to James and 1:1-8

### I. Introduction

A. James explores behaviors and change of heart and the origins evil tendencies.

1. James -Jacob -ancestor of 12 Tribes of Israel. Author refers himself to a 'Slave of Jesus Christ'.

2. James is concerned about the condition of the flock of Jerusalem. First Bishop of Jerusalem. He writes for Jews and Gentiles. He heard of problems in the church of Jerusalem and sent a letter around to resolve them.

3. He is a pastor-teacher: aware of the concrete problems of the church.

He acts in the form of Old Testament Prophets and calls his church to Deeper conversion.

B. John Paul II on holiness: 4 aspects

1. Need the grace of God to grow in holiness

2. God needs our cooperation

3. It is painful because of the deep wounds of sin in our personality

4. It is infinitely worth it.

### II. Js. 1: 1-4

A. v.1-He calls himself a slave of Christ-thus fulfilling the call of Israel to be An obedient servant of the Lord.

1. Modelled on Phil. 2:6-11-Jesus' model of servanthood

2. Church is the fulfillment of Israel.

B. Js. 1:2-4

1. Trials lead to joy and maturity. Trials are encounters of all kinds.

2. Test of suffering is to doubt God's plan and goodness.

3. Perseverance is the fruit of trials: to stay on course on following Christ.

4. Perfect: completeness; lacking nothing. Undivided heart.

5. Every moment of our life is centered in the sovereign plan of God.

C. See Catechism #309-14;

D. See Scriptures: PSalm 119:69-71; Ps. 34:19-20; Romans 5:3-5. Rm. 8:28.

### III. Js. 1:5-8.

A. Wisdom-supplies a divine perspective that enables a person to see divine plan in trials.

1. Wisdom enables to love deeply.

2. We are to ask for it: God gives generously. See Lk. 11:9-13. 1 Kg. 3:5-12.

3. In Old Testament wisdom is discernment. See Dt 1:13. It is practical and enables a person to succeed. It is a gift. It is grounded in our right relationship to God.

4. Pope Benedict XVI: (about wisdom): "It is reading history with God's eyes."

B. v. 6-8: Ask in faith

## Introduction to James and 1:1-8

1. Ask with expectation and faith. It is trust in the Lord's provision and character. God is trustworthy. We hold to this because we are sons and daughters.
2. He desires our eternal salvation and all we need for it.
3. Doubt: in two minds. It creates unstably; it creates disorders life decisions.  
It reflects a person unwilling to trust the Lord.

### Reflection:

1. The point of James' letter is that we live under the Lordship of Jesus (see James in 1:1). This is a letter about discipleship. How do you define discipleship?
2. Define holiness. How do you think James' letter will help you in growing in holiness?
3. How does James say we should respond to trials?
4. What trials are you undergoing in your life now? How have you been responding to them?
5. What kind of wisdom do you need for the trials in your life now?
6. To ask for wisdom requires what kind of disposition and expectation on your part? Why?