

Let us turn to **James 1:2-3** My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, [3] knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

What a good introduction and what good advise we see here for the beginning of a new year. Even if we already know these things, it is good to have a reminder of this call to action. Almost every verse is full of practical Instruction, Practical Christianity. God's word is so deep so High we and never plumb the depths of it. After a lifetime of salvation, a believer may open the word and see something new and fresh that they haven't seen before. The Spirit of God searches all things yea the deep things of God.

Their present condition is similar to most of ours, it is a condition of hardships and trials. In the midst of these the Apostle James begins the theme of this book. Which will be **our Subject today- OUR FAITH IN GOD** and **our patience to obey His word** that will produce perseverance to overcome the trials of life with Joy. **It shows that we can respond to trials in two different ways.**

Our Focus today is upon

If we Humble ourselves and seek Gods Wisdom and word in the many trials we face, we will see them as a test of faith, As we patiently obey Gods Word, our Character and maturity will be developed. Perseverance will result in a crown of Life. Happy is the man who finds Wisdom, who gains understanding, it is better than the profits of silver and the gain of Gold. More precious than rubies and nothing we desire can compare with her. Proverbs3:13-26

But sadly, there are far too many who try to face trials by doing things their own way, its pride in the heart to ignore Gods Wisdom. Our reasoning and unwillingness to stand for truth, lead us into sin a compromise. What do you think is better? - to trust our ways which are born in your head, ways born of this earth, here today and gone tomorrow - or to trust the Eternal Word of God that is settled forever in Heaven that never changes. The word that is above and not beneath. No, trusting and having our hope in our ways is folly. *1 Corinthians 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.* The Wisdom of man is lacking it is worthless when substituting it for Gods ways. even more worthless when

substituting mans way, for the Gospel.... *Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

So, as we face this year there are two paths before us- Gods way His word, and **our way**. Our thoughts are vanity, that means they come to nothing when effort is put forth, and acting on our own ways lacks results. But Gods Word is the answer to everything pertaining to life and Godliness. His Word of full of Life and Power. In His Word do I hope, His Word runs very swiftly, His word melts, His wind blows and causes the waters to flow. If we are going to excel in Strength we must be doers of His Word- we must praise His Word and put our trust in God and not fear what can man do unto me. His word is medicine. He sent forth His word and healed them and delivered them from their destructions. **Is His word settled in your heart**, is it the final and number one authority. Oh, to say like Jerimaiah, His word is in my heart like a burning Fire shut up in my bones.

James 1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and **receive with meekness the implanted word**, which is able to save your souls.

As we go through the book of James we see many names given to the Word of God. All which help us see the vastness and preciousness of Gods Word. *James 1:18. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.* His Word very pure therefore we love it. *Then in v25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.* These verses are full of wisdom and instruction we could just preach on these - *Here* we live in a fallen world of lies, a world of fake media. But God has Given us the **Word of Truth**. We serve a God who is true only and in Him is no lie at all. Jesus Christ said I am the way the TRUTH and the LIFE. He said, sanctify them by thy word, thy word is truth. The Word of God is truth. So we always receive with meekness the engrafted Word of truth. God's Word the perfect Law of Liberty – isn't that what we all want freedom from fears, freedom from the slavery of sin, freedom from that terrible taskmaster satan. Then it's the Word of God we need. We need look nowhere else. Gods Word is not only the Law of Liberty it's the Royal Law. It's not only the ten commandments But we as Christians with meekness receive and do and yield to the Whole law, all the commandments of God , all His precepts , all His teachings. All His promises. It's not man's Word, it's the

Word of God. In **Chapter 3:15-17** we see the The Word of God is Wisdom from above, pure then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without Hypocrisy. The Bible teaches us that we show our love for God and His Teaching, His precepts, and His word, by being Doers of His word. This is love for Him that we obey His commands. The problem is that many claim to believe Gods Word and Believe sound Doctrine. **But are only believing in letter and not in practice.** They want the truth, and say they Love the Truth, but still love the ways of the World. They don't seem to understand that we should be separated from the World, as set apart ones dedicated and Holy for His purposes. That we are to be committed to being doers of God's Word and Precepts. James is addressing this here, not just for Churches but for us as individuals.

Im sure we all know the scripture in Matthew 4:4. Man shall not live by bread alone **BUT BY EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD.** We need the Word of God, We love the Word of God and Value it, and make it our rule Whatever our affairs are in this life we must not neglect this one needful thing. We must keep Gods ways constantly and speak according to His word. **Joshua was to meditate day and night** and that He must **be careful to do according to all that is written.** For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. **Joshua 1:8** We are never to depart from Gods Holy word.

James 1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

We look at three main headings – **the Nature** of Gods Word. **The effect** and influence of God's word upon our Soul and our lives. And **the application** of Gods Word.

The Nature of Gods WORD. The English for 'word' falls short – It's the speech of a living God, His decree or mandate, the moral precepts given by God. They are weighty it's not just a book. Its Gods Word. We see v22 Be ye doers of the Word not hearers only, that is what we do we are those who obeys and fulfil the Law. The Word is the Mind of God it is final and infallible. The Word is living - For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword. God's The word imparts Life. The WORD OF GOD was Davids Great Comfort. And also our

Great comfort. *This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life. Psalm 119:50. When we are cast down- look to Gods Word. Psalms 42:11 Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.*

Next we know, and we are reminded again the **Word of God is true**

v18 Of His own will **He brought us forth by the word of truth,-** The entirety of God's word is truth there is no lie, no darkness nothing false. Knowing the Truth sets us free. God's Word and Gods Ways are faultless **and absolutely pure.**

The implanted Word or the engrafted word needs to be received with all meekness- Its implanted by the Holy Spirit and must be mixed with faith when we hear it. This way it will take deep root and produce much fruit in our lives. The good heart accepts all of Gods dealings with us. **The good heart receives His word.** A good heart does its best to understand what Gods Word is saying. God has begotten us, He brought us forth and called us by the word of TRUTH for his own service, let us lay aside *all* that is evil, and submit ourselves wholly to the influence of truth.

We see that the nature of God's Word is the LAW OF LIBERTY. The Perfect Law of Liberty. We know there is the Law of Sin and death that enslaves us and pulls us down lower and lower. And places us in bondage. But the Law of God Makes us free indeed. The nature of The Word of God it - Cleanses us, and Sets us free, the word of God is Life. And imparts LIFE

Meekly receive the Word - **How do I know I've received the word.** Well, I become a doer. But really more than that I **Acknowledge the Lord** in all my ways. **I include Him** in everything I do. I lean upon Him. Another way of saying it is, I lean all my weight upon Him. I trust Him and have faith in Him with all my heart. These are simple things. But it's sometimes not easy to acknowledge the Lord every day and every Hour. We could not cover all the nature of Gods Word. It is very deep very pure, very High. But what is so wonderful is He has given us His word.

Next we move on to *The effect of Gods Word.*

And when I am a doer there will be marvellous effects. The number one effect of the Word of God is that it brings forth new life. The new birth. v18 of His own will He brought us forth BY the WORD of Truth. No one is born again without the Word of God. 1 Peter 1:23 *having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.* Also, its another name given to the Word of

God *the Incorruptible seed*. Imperishable. The Word of God which lives and abides forever. The Word is full of Mighty power, miraculous power It brings forth the greatest miracle, the miracle of Conversion **By the Word of God** we know the Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit. By the Word of God we know about the terrible fall of man. If we didn't have the Word how would we know. What's more **the Word of God** tells us the need for a Saviour. The Word of God tells us our need for forgiveness. then the word of God tells me the blessings that come when I obey Gods Word. The Word is involved fully and is instrumental in our salvation. The Gospel is Gods redeeming Word of Salvation. It is the Power of God unto Salvation. Nothing does the soul so much good as the Word preached , and the Gospel preached. That's why Satan wants to belittle preaching, make it as the least important. But Preaching must be central in the Life of every church. Must be given first place above all else. Some people don't like hearing preaching that is full of the Word of God. No, they say give us some jokes. Give us nice illustrations. But don't make the preaching too long... We need more special items and music. **It is only Gods Word** that saves us, Its only Gods word that brings saving Faith. Only Gods word that is a light unto our path. *Psalms 43:3 O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.*

If any preaching is not based upon the Word of God ignore it don't listen to it. Rather Blessing awaits us as we Hear Gods word, there will be marvolous effects As we obey Gods Word. It all begins with the new Birth. then we learn in *James 1:19-20* *Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be **swift** to hear, **slow** to speak, **slow** to wrath: [20] For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.* **The Word of God keeps us in check**, our speech, and our mood, our actions and all behaviour. It's a mirror in which we see our true condition. How is my appearance when I compare myself to Gods standard; am I one swift to hear; am I slow to speak. Am I slow to anger. We see the puritans who always expound with many exhortations used to say – Be angry for nothing except Sin, what good advise to apply to our lives. How fruitful, how pleasing to God and how blessed a believer is when they have an ear Quick to hear Gods Word. Not only are they quick to hear but attentive to what they hear. They listen with great reverence and respect. How can we become a doer if we wont even be attentive hearers.

Another effect -The Word always defeats the evil one. The Word of God is the Sword of the Spirit. Gods Word is the Greatest weapon we have. There is an old saying By DL Moody the old revivalist to America **This book will keep you from sin – and sin will keep you from this book.** So let us go into this new year reading our Bible, let us go in obeying our Bible. When we don't feel like reading our bible that is when we most need to read our bible. Whenever it's hardest to pray that is when we need most to pray. Read your Bible no matter your feelings. "Lord, to whom shall we go? **You have the words of eternal life.**

In Closing let us look at some applications drawn from this verse- *James 1:21 Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.* Lay Aside is the first application. Put off liker a dirty garment, Discard like a filthy rag. It pictures taking off that which is unnecessary, and harmful for our lives or that which is opposing to God's purposes. **Put aside** the corrupt old man. **Put off** anger wrath Malice. Get rid of them and Love not the World. Look at the last part of v27 *and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.* If we are going to be strong Christians. We put off everything that hinders, and we run with perseverance the race before us. We watch our senses. All five of them. We guard them and we are careful what we allow in.

Now the positive - *and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.* That means receive immediately. The humble receive, that's a good heart. *Luke 8:15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, **having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.***

When you are at home read Gods Word, Pray as your read, and before You read. Ask yourself questions when you read. There is a little book mark for you with the kind of Questions we should ask ourselves when reading Gods Word. Keep it in your Bible.. don't rush through reading. Think meditate and pray. Receive with meekness the implanted word. **Be like the the Jews of Berea.** In Acts 17:11. They were hungry to learn and eagerly received the word. Every day they opened the scrolls of Scripture. **So, in Closing, remember as we hear God's Word,** let us not only hear but respond. True faith humbles itself under the authority of Scripture. So today, and not only today all the days of this new year, and not only this new year but all the days of my life, **I desire and choose to submit to God and mend my ways, to lay aside all**

filthiness, to honour the Word of God which imparts life- but it also kills, kills sin and pride and Lust and all evil The Word of God promotes HOLINESS and Godliness. It separates us from this world. It works powerfully in those who meekly receive it, Who Love it and reverence it. So let us hold fast, cling to and never let Go For in doing so the reward shall be life and peace both now and for ever more. And our Lives will be well pleasing gto our God who we love.