James

Series: When Faith Works
Title: Faith Responds to Trials
Lesson - One

Text: James 1:1-4
Date: Nov. 22, 2026

James 1:1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

"bond-servant"

[doulos] "_____"

Bond-servant or servant:

- Hired to work for wages
- Maintains complete control over his own life

Slave

- Was purchased, owned
- Obligated to serve under the authority of his master
- They belonged entirely to their Master

It is unfortunate when translators soften the imagery by replacing "slave" with "servant."

The combination is significant. James identifies himself as a slave belonging to the Lord Jesus Christ.

It gives us a powerful picture of redemption.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that ***you are not your own?*** 20 For you have been ***bought with a price***: therefore glorify God in your body.

James connects two important words.

"slave" (doulos) **"Lord"** (kyrios)

An Important question

Can we believe in Jesus Christ while rejecting His Lordship over our lives?

the ~~Lord~~ Jesus Christ

Pairing those two words strikes at the very heart of a controversy called Lordship salvation.

The central argument of Lordship salvation is that genuine saving faith cannot be separated from recognition of Jesus Christ as Lord.

It challenges "easy-believism"

We can't separate Jesus as Lord from the fact that He is our Savior.

Romans 10:8–9 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, 9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as ***Lord***, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

Luke 6:46 "Why do you call Me, ***'Lord, Lord,'*** and do not do what I say?

Matthew 7:22 "Not everyone who says to Me, ***'Lord, Lord,'*** will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.

To be a Christian means:

1. Total _____

2. Total _____

3. Total _____

4. Total _____

Do we actually see Christ as our Master?

James 1:1 James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings.

"twelve tribes"

"Greetings" [chairein]

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,

"encounter"

"various"

"Consider" - ESV (count it) - Command

"when"

1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

"knowing"

"testing"

"endurance"

4 And let endurance have its perfect result,

"perfect"

so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

"complete"

"lacking in nothing"

Implications

1. When trials ambush our life, don't _____.

2. Don't expect to immediately reap the _____ of trial.

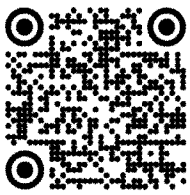
Discussion Guide

1. Where are you most tempted to treat Jesus like a Sunday advisor or life coach while holding onto autonomy over your schedule, finances, or ambitions Monday through Saturday?

2. What is one specific area of your life right now where calling Jesus "Lord" requires shifting from mere agreement with Scripture to concrete obedience?

3. When an unexpected trial ambushes you, what is your natural knee-jerk reaction, and how does knowing that God uses testing to prove and strengthen your faith change how you interpret the storm?

4. What does it practically look like to "let endurance have its perfect result" in a situation you cannot fix or control right now?



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