



# The Epistle of St. James

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## Chapter 1

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# Temptation

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- Two meanings
  - 1) tribulations, difficulties (First part of Chapter 1)
  - 2) temptation with evil (Second part of Chapter 1)



# Suffering and Pain

- There are several levels of understanding and dealing with Pain.
- It is a question that troubles everyone on earth and a common occupation for philosophers and theologians
- An issue that is used to disprove God.

# Why rejoice during temptation?



- The devil always accuses God of lack of love, care, and wisdom,... during our time through hardships. However, the devil is the liar and father of every lie.
- Pain entered into the beautiful world because of sin and not because of God's cruelty
- Pain is not out of God's anger: Christ suffered, was God angry with Him? St. Paul, Abanoub, and all the Martyrs?



- Christ suffered to resemble us in everything
  - **Heb 2:10** For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.



- Christ participated in suffering with us as a sin of love.
- As a perfect God, he turned the punishment into salvation
- God uses suffering to fix problems in our lives and to make us perfect
- Job suffered in order to get rid of his ego.
- God used pain with Paul as a pre-emptive measure to prevent him from boasting



- Why did not God eliminate pain after the cross? Because as humans we still have a tendency to sin (Rom 7). God uses pain to perfect us in His ways
- Pain is a knife in the hand of a clever surgeon
- Pain is a tool God uses to make like heaven more than the world and to focus on Heaven more than on earth.
- If we get to like heaven, we rejoice as our life will change.



# Tribulation does not:

- Cleanse us, only the Blood of Christ can cleanse us from every sin
  - **1Jn 1:7** But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin
  - **Rev 7:14** And I said to him, Sir, you know. And he said to me, These are the ones who came out of the great tribulation and have washed their robes, and have whitened them in the blood of the Lamb.
- It is not a test so God would know our abilities. God knows everything. This may be to show us our weaknesses and to practice the faith that we know and hear of.



# Verses

- Joh 16:33 I have spoken these things to you so that you might have peace in Me. In the world you shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world.
- Mat 10:38 And he who does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me.
- Mat 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.



# Verses

- **Heb 12:6** for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and He scourges every son whom He receives."
- **Isa 63:9** In all their affliction He *was* afflicted, and the Angel of His Presence saved them; in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bore them, and carried them all the days of old.
- **Php 1:29** For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;
- **Php 3:10** that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable to His death;
- **2Co 1:5** For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds by Christ.



# Why do we rejoice in suffering?

- 1) Sign of God's love to us
- 2) If God allowed tribulations, then His plan is to make me better
- 3) Since it is participation with Christ, it is also a path to glory
- 4) Our comforting is increased
- 5) God is glorified during tribulations, by Him providing the solution

# Why we are not comforted in our tribulations?



- Doubt about God's love
- Making God the enemy and not the Friend
- Do not seek comfort from God, no prayer
- Rebellion against God



# Saying of the Fathers

- Abba Paula “He who runs from tribulations, runs from God”
- Fr. Pishoy Kamel: “ If you do not have a cross, find a cross. The soul without a cross is a bride without a groom”.