

The Practice Of Faith
A Radical Approach to Trials
Grace Church
July 20, 2008

1. Background: James was the half-brother of Jesus (Matt. 13:55).
 - He became known as “James the Just”
2. His main point: **True faith shows itself in practical, godly living.**
3. Themes: endurance through trials; the dangers of riches and encouragement to the poor; the law and love; faith and works; the coming of the Lord; and humility.
 - But his main point is that **true biblical faith works.**

James 1:1-4 1 Pet. 4:13 Rom. 5:3

Consider three things:

I. We should adopt a **radical attitude** in trials. *James 1:2*

A. “Count” means to think, consider, or regard something based on weighing and comparing of facts.

B. This radical attitude accepts trials as expected, not as a surprise.

C. This radical attitude does not require denying emotional pain.

D. This radical attitude is not natural.

Ps. 30:5 Ps. 126:5-6

E. This radical attitude results from a deliberate choice.

II. We should understand a **reassuring truth** in trials:

James 1:3

A. God is sovereign over every trial.

Job 37:6-13

Prov. 16:33

Ps. 22:28

Acts 14:16

Acts 17:26

Ps. 139:16

- B. God is using the trials to test our faith to produce endurance.

III. We should submit to the **refining process** in trials:

James 1:4

- A. “Let” implies submission to God in the trial.

- B. Recognize that maturity is a process, not instant perfection.

- C. Submitting to the process will result in spiritual maturity.

IV. Conclusion

- A. James (5:7) later encourages us, “Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord.”

- B. His radical approach to dealing with trials is:
 - 1. Adopt a radical attitude: “Consider it all joy.”
 - 2. Understand a reassuring truth: “Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.”
 - 3. Submit to the refining process: “let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

- C. True faith responds with practical godliness under testing.

