

The Trials of Life and the Triumph of Christ
Part One
James 1:2-12

Author, Audience and the Reason for the Letter

Defeated Christian – oxymoron

A reminder from Paul – 2 Corinthians 2:14-16a *triumphal procession*

The *Trials* of Life – v.2, v.13 describing things that put a person to the test
from without (v.2) from within (v.13)

No 'if' in the verse!

*If you are human you are hurting...or have hurt...or will hurt...or know someone
who is...*

Count it all joy!?! – with good reason...

Lacking anything? Lacking Nothing! - v.4, 5 (Proverbs 4)

DON'T BLAME GOD!

☺ God's part – generous gift-giver (v.5)

☹ Our part - Although nothing in God prevents Him from giving wisdom to
His people, a barrier may in fact exist in them. *Great Expectations...*

Double-minded/double-souled...

God is no respecter of persons – v.9-11 *One Life to Live*

The Faithfulness of God – v.12

Blessed is the man who perseveres...Matthew 5:3-11

Transcendent happiness of a life beyond care, labor and death

Sure and steadfast living hope that is ours in Christ!

The Valley of Vision

LORD, HIGH AND HOLY, MEEK AND LOWLY,

Thou hast brought me to the valley of vision,
Where I live in the depths but see thee in the heights;
Hemmed in by mountains of sin I behold thy glory.

Let me learn by paradox
That the way down is the way up,
That to be low is to be high,
That the broken heart is the healed heart,
That the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit,
That the repenting soul is the victorious soul,
That to have nothing is to possess all,
That to bear the cross is to wear the crown,
That to give is to receive,
That the valley is the place of vision.

Lord, in the daytime stars can be seen from deepest wells,
And the deeper the wells the brighter thy stars shine;

Let me find thy light in my darkness,
Thy life in my death,
Thy joy in my sorrow,
Thy grace in my sin,
Thy riches in my poverty
Thy glory in my valley.