

# EQUIPPED

## A Field Guide to the Christian Life

### WILDERNESS TRAINING

#### James 1:1

This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing to the “twelve tribes”—Jewish believers scattered abroad. Greetings!

#### Matthew 13:55-56

Then they scoffed, “He’s just the carpenter’s son, and we know Mary, his mother, and his brothers—James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas. <sup>56</sup>All his sisters live right here among us. Where did he learn all these things?”

#### 1 Corinthians 15:4-7

He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. <sup>5</sup>He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. <sup>6</sup>After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles.

**The power of the resurrection trumps the past with all of its hurts and pains, if we allow it to!**

#### • Joy in Troubles

#### James 1:2-4

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. <sup>3</sup>For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. <sup>4</sup>So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

*Teleios* - perfect, fully developed, complete in all its parts, full-grown

## • Wisdom for Troubles

### James 1:5-8

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. <sup>6</sup> But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. <sup>8</sup> Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

### Matthew 7:7-8

Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

### Matthew 13:11-12

He replied, "You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but others are not. <sup>12</sup> To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.

## • God – Not Self – in Troubles

### James 1:9-11

Believers who are poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them. <sup>10</sup> And those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them. They will fade away like a little flower in the field. <sup>11</sup> The hot sun rises and the grass withers; the little flower droops and falls, and its beauty fades away. In the same way, the rich will fade away with all of their achievements.

### Jeremiah 17:5

This is what the Lord says: "Cursed are those who put their trust in mere humans, who rely on human strength and turn their hearts away from the Lord."

- Reward for Troubles

### James 1:12-15

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup> And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. <sup>14</sup> Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. <sup>15</sup> These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

### 1 Corinthians 10:13

The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

- You are God's Prize

### James 1:16-18

So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. <sup>18</sup> He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.