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**Study Series: Practical Principles for Living the Christian Life**

**LESSON #1**

**“The Christian Response to Trials”**

**James 1:2-23**

**Tuesday, March 2, 2021**

Growing in The Word Bible Study via Zoom

Access Code: 362 296 9704 – Password 840101

PROVIDENCE M.B. CHURCH

8401 S. ASHLAND AVENUE

CHICAGO IL 60620

Tuesday 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Rev. Dr. William H. Foster, Jr., Senior Pastor

Dr. Dolly A. Robinson, Instructor

**Group Discussion: What was your response the last time you found yourself in the midst of a trial?**

**INTROUCTION:**

The Book of James was written by James the half brother of Jesus (Mark 6:3; Matthew 13:55). James was not initially a believer of the ministry of his own Brother Jesus the Christ. However, after the resurrection, Jesus appeared to him (1st Cor. 15:7) which authenticates his apostleship and gave this epistle credibility as inspired Scripture. He became the leader of the church at Jerusalem (Acts 15:13) where he ministered as pastor for over 30 years. It is recorded by Jewish historian Josephus that James was cruelly martyred c. AD 62 by the Scribes and Pharisees.

James being a Jew was in a unique position to advise his fellow Jewish brothers how to practice Christian principles in all aspects of their lives. He identifies with them by addressing them as “brothers” or “brethren” over 30 times in this letter.

James’ intent in this letter was to exhort the early Christian believers to practice the precepts of the Christian faith that would lead to spiritual maturity. This letter reflects many themes such as the Christian response to trials, favoritism in the church, controlling the tongue, pride and strife and many others. Over the next few weeks, we will study these themes with the same objective in mind, that we will all become more mature in the faith of Lord, Jesus the Christ.

**LESSON OUTLINE**

**CHRISTIAN REPONSE TO TRIALS – JAMES 1:2-23**

I Rejoice in Diverse Trials – James 1:2-12

* Attitude in trials – v. 2
* Advantage of trials – vv. 3-4
* Assistance for trials – vv. 5-12

Wisdom to face trials – vv. 5-8

The right perspective of rich and poor – vv. 9-11

Reward for endurance – v. 12

II Resist Deadly Temptation – James 1:13-18

* Source of temptation – vv. 13-14
* Steps in temptation – vv. 15-16
* Solution for temptation – vv. 16-18

III Receive the Word of Truth – James 1:19-23

* Receptivity to the Word – vv. 19-21
* Respond to the Word – vv. 22-23

*Food for Thought: When was the last time you felt joy when you encountered a trial?*

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**Lesson #2 – Serve with Compassion not Prejudice – James Chapter 2**