

## Prayer Meeting Address given by Mr Jabez Rutt at Lamberhurst on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### Reading: James 1 vs 1-16

Seeking the Lord's mind for the prayer meeting tonight it was literally the epistle of James, not a particular word in it, but it just seemed the whole of the epistle rested upon my spirit. With this in mind I felt that perhaps we should go through the epistle and seek to expound the truths that are found in this epistle.

We note first, "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ," this James is the half-brother of our Lord Jesus Christ. The other James who was the brother of John was executed by Herod in the year 44. The epistle of James was written around about the year 60 or 63. We notice he was "a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ." What a wonderful thing to be a servant of God' it is an office. He was obviously termed an apostle, he was the first bishop of Jerusalem so it seems quite fitting, because this epistle here as you will notice in verse 1 is "to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting." So it was addressed to the Jews just as the previous epistle of the Hebrews by the apostle Paul was written to the Jews in the early church. So this epistle of James, he being the bishop of Jerusalem although not called a bishop then he was probably called an apostle or a minister. He felt it rested on his spirit that he should write to the twelve tribes scattered abroad. There were many, many Jews in the early church.

He immediately comes straight to the point, "My brethren," he does not mean that in sense of Jews as brethren, he means that in the sense of believers. He was writing to the believers in the early church so he says, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations:" remember the early church was greatly persecuted. The Jews were particularly persecuted by the Romans and by their own families and he exhorts them here, "count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;" that means not the temptations of Satan, it means the persecution, the crosses, the losses, the trials that they had to pass through. "Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." It says in the book of psalms, "The LORD trieth the righteous," we would think the Lord trieth the wicked, but no, he "trieth the righteous." Peter says in his epistle, "the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold or silver that perisheth." "Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." That is the effect by the sanctifying influences of the Spirit in your heart, in your

life, "it worketh patience." Then he says here, "But let patience have *her* perfect work," friends, you know we are very impatient are we not, but he says here, "let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." The experiences that you pass through, the trials that you pass through, we have need of patience to wait upon the Lord, to look unto the Lord to cast all our care upon the Lord.

Now in in these trials in particular he says in verse 5, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God," as I was looking at this word this morning I thought what a fitting word for a prayer meeting "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given." It is very similar to those words of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Then in the previous epistle the apostle says, for such a high priest have we, that is passed into the heavens, "Jesus the Son of God," who "was in all points tempted like as *we are* yet without sin." And what does the apostle say when he speaks of that great high priest, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." May that be a word in season, but let him ask in faith.

Again in the Hebrews we read, "for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering." Friends, if faith is in exercise in our heart and our thoughts and our understanding are enlarged and enlightened; in a sense, that is the meaning of that lovely word in Jabez' prayer in the Chronicles, "Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coasts," that is what Jabez said in his in prayer, that thou wouldest enlarge my faith, my coasts. "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord." A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways." May the Lord keep us from this double mindedness, may he give us this spirit of faith and trust. Trust in him at all times ye people, wait patiently for him. That is the exhortation in the word of God.

Then he speaks of those of high degree and of low degree. "Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted: But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of grass he shall pass away. For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the

grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

Then there is this lovely word, “Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them love him.” Blessed is the man that endureth temptation. Of course, it can and does often mean the temptations of Satan but it does not entirely mean that. This word temptation is used in what we might say, a very liberal way. It can mean afflictions, it can mean trials and troubles in your pathway, temptation, trials, perplexities. It can mean in the inward spiritual exercises of your soul those things that the Lord has laid there and you are waiting for him to perform and to do. That can be a very great trial. Look at Abraham, he had to wait twenty-five years before Isaac was born. The Lord had promised him and here he was almost one hundred years old and still that promise had not been fulfilled. “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”

“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God:” a very point of divine truth here, friends, “for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:” this is a point that we must bear in mind, we often blame the devil for everything, but often it is our own wicked, sinful heart. The devil is a very busy foe, a very active foe but so is our own wicked, sinful heart and the word of God is teaching us here that, “every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren.” It is an admonition there, not to err and to blame everything on to the devil but a realisation from what the word of God teaches us. “For the heart of man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.” My beloved friends, may it please the Lord to give us a spirit of prayer now and give us light and understanding in his word and help us as we approach unto his glorious majesty in prayer.