

# James Overview

## FAITH

Is our faith real ???

The only way to know is if its tested

By God

"Book of James" focus

God's chosen method of testing our faith?

Trials

The goal of trials is to produce Christ-likeness in us

We measure "Christ-likeness" by God's approval

By Us

Scripture commands us to continually test our own faith....

2 Cor 13:5

How ?

The greatest test of whether we are living a true and living faith is.....

Are we living the Beatitudes ?

Any discussion of Faith must begin with the Sovereignty of God over all things in our lives.....  
**Sovereignty of God**  
"Nothing happens unless the Omnipotent wills it to happen; he either permits it to happen, or He brings it about Himself - - Augustine  
Absolutely nothing comes into our life w/out God's approval

"Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test?" 2 Cor 13:5

Romans 8:28-29  
28And we know that in all things (including trials) God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

If I am living the Beatitudes I am "Blessed", or "Receiving God's approval"

With our hearts and minds on the Kingdom (Col 3:1 - 2)

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

Colossians 3:1-2

- Blessed are the poor in Spirit...(Luke 18:10 - 14).....for theirs is the kingdom of God
- Blessed are those who mourn...(Psalm 51v17).....they will be comforted.
- Blessed are the meek.....(Phil 4:13).....they will inherit the earth.
- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...(Phil 3:7-11).....for they will be filled.
- Blessed are the merciful.....(Eph 4:32).....for they will be shown mercy.
- Blessed are the pure in heart...(2 Cor 7:1).....for they shall see God.
- Blessed are the peacemakers...(Col 1:19-20).....for they will be sons of God.
- Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness...(Phil 1:29).....for theirs is the kingdom of God

If we are living by these, then our faith is real and we will respond in trials with JOY !!!