



## **The Common Thread: James: 3 Axioms About Living Present with Christ**

Pastor John Driver  
August 1, 2021

**James 1:2-4 TLB**—“2 Dear brothers, is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, 3 for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. 4 So let it grow, and don’t try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete.

**James 1:1 NLT**—“I am writing to the “twelve tribes”—Jewish believers scattered abroad.”)

### **Don’t Let Trouble Trump Your Trust**

**James 1: 2-4 NLT**—“2 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. 3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. 4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.”

What’s your greatest need right now? What is mine? I derail or get lost in the fog of life not because I have trouble, but because in my trouble, I lose sight of who I am in relation to Who He is. I begin to think, feel, and act as if the solution to this problem is my greatest need. I do this so much that it’s no wonder that James wrote about it!

### **Speak Love and Live Love with Equal Volume**

**James 1:26-27 NIV**—“26 Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. 27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”

**James 3:13-16 NIV**—"13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

**James 3:17-18 ESV**—"17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

## **Above All Else, Live and Dwell Present with the Father and His Ways**

**James 4:4-10 NIV**—" 4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? 6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

**Psalms 27:4 & 8 AMP**—" One thing I have asked of the Lord, and that I will seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord [in His presence] all the days of my life, To gaze upon the beauty [the delightful loveliness and majestic grandeur] of the Lord And to meditate in His temple... When You said, "Seek My face [in prayer, require My presence as your greatest need]," my heart said to You, "Your face, O Lord, I will seek [on the authority of Your word]."