



# **Faith Alive!**

## ***Spiritual Resilience***

James 1:1-4

# James: Faith Alive!

- **If our faith doesn't work in the details of daily life, then it doesn't work!**
- **How do you know your faith is alive?**  
See James 2:14-16, 26
- **What you are when you are under pressure is what you are**  
See James 1:1-4

# James: Faith Alive!

- **1:1 Readers & Writer**
  - One of the “General Epistles”
  - To Jewish Christians in the ‘diaspora’
  - Written between Acts 7 (martyrdom of Stephen) and Acts 15 (council of Jerusalem)
  - James: “the bond-servant”
    - Note what he didn’t emphasize: ‘I’m Jesus’ brother...’
    - ‘bond-servant’ – points to: absolute obedience, humility, and dedication
    - What’s on your résumé?

# James: Faith Alive!

- **1:1 Readers & Writer**
- **1:2-4 Spiritual Resilience in Trials**
  - **Unnatural: Joy in times of great trial**

By nature we are happy when we escape difficult circumstances of any kind, but as believers we are to have joy in the midst of trials of every kind.

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- **1:2-4 Spiritual Resilience in Trials**
  - **Unnatural: Joy in times of great trial**
  - **Intentionally generic**

The difficulties we face are as different as our faces!

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  - **Unnatural: Joy in times of great trial**
  - **Intentionally generic**
  - **Joy is commanded!**

It is something we do, not something that just happens.  
Happiness 'happens' (or not!) – Joy is a choice

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  - **Joy is commanded!**
  - **The reality of joy in tribulation**

See II Cor 7:4; 6:4-10

And today ... in our midst...

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  - **How this can be?**

*Good You are and good You do* Ps 119:68; 62:11,12

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  - **How this can be?**
  - **Trials and tests, not temptations**
  - **God's good purposes: 'spiritual resilience'**
  - **There is no spiritual maturity without spiritual resilience!**