



The book of James was written to a group of believers who had been “dispersed abroad” (scattered like seed) because of persecution

James 1:2-4





OUTSIDE OPPOSITION

James 1:2a

These Jewish believers were facing persecution that put their lives literally in jeopardy- death was likely



James understood their persecution, but he also understood that God is working all things together

James 1:2



**“Trials” = adversity;
discipline; provocation;
a putting to proof**



**God wants to use what
we're presently facing to
mature us; to grow us; and
conform us into His image**

James 1:2-3



**The end result of
encountering various trials
is that it produces
endurance – those trials
test and prove our faith**



“Testing” is actually a
silversmith term

- 1 – Temperature is cranked up to 1450 F**
- 2 – When hot, impurities float to the top**
- 3 – Impurities scraped off and discarded**



- 4 – Fire is reheated until more impurities float**
- 5 – This process is repeated until the silver was clear**
- 6 – Silver was “tested” ONLY when the Silversmith could clearly see His own reflection**



James 1:2-4

**“Perfect” = wanting nothing;
completeness; full grown;
mature**



This entire process, although **NOT always easy, is for the end result of becoming more **mature** in our faith**

Each of those moments God has used to help **shape you and **mold** you and **mature** you (there's a purpose)**



James 1:2-4

**1 – God desires to use
“these trials” to purify us
(to remove ANY impurities
from our lives)**



**2 – God desires to use “these trials”
to strengthen our faith in Him**

**3 – God has an ultimate purpose,
the end result, is to make us
more Christlike; to mature us,
and to grow us in our walks
with God**

