

A scenic landscape featuring a river flowing through a valley. In the background, there are mountains and a dense forest of evergreen trees. A large, semi-circular orange sun graphic is positioned behind the main title. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, greens, and oranges.

# JAMES

LIVING  
OUT  
SALVATION  
IN PRACTICAL  
WAYS

In what way will this year be “new”?



# Flavors of Newness

- NEOS - new in sequence; more recent in time
- KAINOS - new in character, nature, or quality

*“Then the one seated on the throne said,  
‘Look, I am making everything new.’”*  
(Revelation 21:5)

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding. In all your ways know him, and he will make straight your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)*



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# “Joyful Endurance”

(James 1:1-12)

If you want to experience the newness of life Jesus makes available to us, a Christ follower must...

- Exercise joyful endurance
- Recognize our desperate need for God's wisdom
- Embrace of the great reversals Jesus' kingdom brings about



## James 1:2-4

2 Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

Following Jesus does not shelter you  
from experiencing adversity.



James is not instructing us about how we should feel, but rather how we should think when we come up against trying circumstances.

*“The Lord will hear when I call to him. Be angry and do not sin. Reflect in your heart while you are on your bed and be silent.” (Psalm 4:3-4)*



Joy is a settled contentment in every situation, rooted in one's choice to trust that God is good and will fulfill His promises.

## James 1:2-4

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“God has not been trying an experiment on my faith or love in order to find out their quality. He knew it already. It was I who didn’t.”

(C.S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*)

Trials serve to prove and temper our  
faith.







Trials serve to cultivate within us a  
joyful endurance.

# ENDURANCE (Greek *hypomonē*)

- Lit. “remaining under”
- Steadfastness, fortitude, perseverance
- Stick-to-itiveness, heroic obedience
- “Long obedience in the same direction”
- “Faith stretched out”



“[Endurance] is not a meek, passive submission to circumstances, but a strong, active, challenging response in which the satisfying realities of Christianity are proven in practice.” (Moo)

“[Endurance] is what faith, hope, and love bring an apparently impossible situation.”  
(Wright)

Joyful endurance forms us into the whole, integrated, Christ-embodying people God intends for us to be.

- Those who endure get to know God.



*“I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ... My goal is to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings.”*

*(Philippians 3:8, 10-11)*

- Those who endure get to know God.
- Those who endure get to see God move.

*“So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fire. When the satraps, prefects, governors, and the king’s advisers gathered around, they saw that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men: not a hair of their heads was singed, their robes were unaffected, and there was no smell of fire on them.”*

*(Daniel 3:26-27)*



- Those who endure get to know God.
- Those who endure get to see God move.
- Those who endure are shaped and start to look like Jesus.

*“We know that affliction produces endurance, endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. This hope will not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”*

**(Romans 5:3-5)**

- Those who endure get to know God.
- Those who endure get to see God move.
- Those who endure are shaped and start to look like Jesus.
- Those who endure are useful to God and His purposes.

*“Blessed is the one who endures trials,  
because when he has stood the test he will  
receive the crown of life that God has  
promised to those who love him.”*

*(James 1:12)*



*“Run in such a way to win the prize. Now everyone who competes exercises self-control in everything. They do it to receive a perishable crown, but we an imperishable crown. So I do not run like one who runs aimlessly or box like one beating the air. Instead, I discipline my body and bring it under strict control, so that after preaching to others, I myself will not be disqualified.”*

*(1 Corinthians 9:24-27)*

What “various trials” are you facing in your life right now?

How might you shift your thinking to embrace the positive potential of this difficulty?

What is your next step of joyful endurance?