James

Chapter 1 (Part 1)

πειρασμός (pei-ras-mos)

"Trials" (n.)

(2x - 1:2, 12)

"Tempt" (v.)

(4x - 1:13-14)

"Various Trials"

- Exhaustion, Illness, Hopelessness
- Personal Loss
- Arrogance and Pride
- Financial difficulties
- Harshness, Mistreatment, Criticism
- Selfishness, Greed, Jealousy
- Broken Relationships
- Persecution

"Blessed are..."

The poor in spirit...

Exhaustion, Illness, Hopelessness

Those who mourn...

Personal loss

The humble...

Arrogance and Pride

Those who hunger and thirst after tzedakkah...

Financial difficulties

The merciful...

• Harshness, Mistreatment, Criticism

The pure in heart...

Selfishness, Greed, Jealousy

The peacemakers...

• Broken Relationships

Those who are persecuted...

Persecution

"Consider it all joy ...!"

The poor in spirit...

Exhaustion, Illness, Hopelessness

"...theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven"

Those who mourn...

Personal Loss

"...they will be comforted"

The humble...

Arrogance and pride

"...they will inherit the earth"

Those who hunger and thirst after tzedakkah...

• Financial difficulties

"...they will be satisfied"

The merciful...

Harshness, Mistreatment, Criticism

"...they will be shown mercy"

The pure in heart...

• Selfishness, Greed, Jealousy

"...they will behold God"

The peacemakers...

• Broken Relationships

"...they will be called the sons of God"

Those who are persecuted...

Persecution

"...theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven ...their reward is great!"

Q: What does endurance look like?

A: Salt...

Matthew 5:13

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

...and Light

Matthew 5:14-15

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

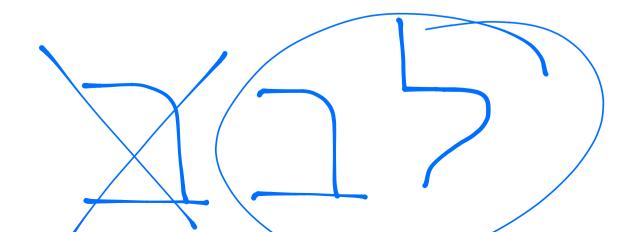
Q: What do we need when we experience...

...Exhaustion, Illness, Hopelessness, Personal Loss, Arrogance, Pride, Financial Difficulties, Harshness, Mistreatment, Criticism, Selfishness, Greed, Jealousy, Broken Relationships or Persecution?

A: Wisdom!

A working definition of wisdom:

The skill to live a normal life in this world.



Q: How do we ask in a wholehearted way?

Matthew 7:7-12

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."