**Authentic** *(Series Graphic)*

(James 1:1)

“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.

**The Bench Test of the Believer**

**Bench test:** *the critical evaluation of a new or repaired component, device, apparatus, etc, prior to installation to ensure that it is in perfect condition.*

(James 1:2-3)

“Consider it **pure joy**, my brothers and sisters, **whenever** you **face trials of many kinds**, because you know that the **testing** of your faith **produces** perseverance.”

1. **Adversity** is the means by which we **grow**.

(James 1:2-4)

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let **perseverance finish** its work **so that** you may be **mature** and **complete**, not lacking anything.”

What is God trying to **teach** me?

Take **delight** in times of **difficulty**.

The **problems** we face can **produce positive outcomes** if we have the right **attitude**.

1. **Adversity** is an **opportunity**.

(Romans 5:1-5)

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ…And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, **but we also glory in our sufferings**, because we know that **suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope**. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”

 **Hope** flows through suffering.

1. Seek **wisdom**.

(James 1:5)

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should **ask God**, who gives **generously** to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

Wisdom is putting the right **knowledge** into the right **action**.

Wisdom is the spiritual capability to see and evaluate our circumstances from **God’s point of view** and **choose what is right** according to His purpose.

(James 1:12)

“**Blessed** is the one who **perseveres** under trial because, having **stood the test**, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.”