

WORDS OF
JOY

Jeremiah 15:16



FIRST MELISSA

Theme verse for this teaching series, prayed by Prophet Jeremiah

Your words were found and I ate them, and
Your words became for me a joy and the
delight of my heart; for I have been called by
Your name, O Lord God of hosts.

Jeremiah 15:16

*English word “joy” is **שִׂשׂוֹן** *sasown* in Hebrew
– also translated rejoicing, gladness, exultation

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

What does it mean to “eat” God’s words?

- Then He said to me, “Son of man, **eat** what you find; eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” Ezekiel 3:1
- Apostle John wrote, “So I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book. And he said to me, ‘Take it and **eat** it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.’” Revelation 10:9
- Food signifies anything that we take in to satisfy us, sustain us, and strengthen us. For Jeremiah to take God’s Word as his food meant that he received God’s Word as his spiritual nourishment and satisfaction. We also can take the Word of God as food and eat it to satisfy our spiritual hunger and cause our heart to be joyful. – Living Stream Ministry

How can God's words become our joy and the delight of our hearts?

- “This book of the law [Torah תּוֹרָה] shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall **meditate** on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. Joshua 1:8
- But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law [Torah תּוֹרָה] he **meditates** day and night. Psalm 1:2
- Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, **dwell** on these things. Philippians 4:8
- Meditation is an appropriate response to God's Word. It's not our default response. We're prone to treat the Bible like a textbook and we're cramming for a test. We know how to read, analyze, color code, timeline, and graph the Scriptures, but **meditation** is a neglected skill. – Insight for Living

***How can I have **joy**
when I suffer?***

James 1

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

National Suffering (last week)

vs.

Personal Suffering (this week)

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings. James 1:1

*Bond-servant is Greek noun “doulos” δοῦλος

*This is a statement declaring the Trinity... Jesus Christ is God

*“Dispersed abroad” can mean leaving outside Israel

*Or “dispersed abroad” can mean no longer feeling at home among people who do not share your beliefs

Several men named James in the New Testament

- **The son of Zebedee** (Matt. 4:21; 10:2; Mark 1:19; 3:17) and **brother of John** (Matt. 17:1; Mark 3:17; 5:37; Acts 12:2), with whom he was called by Jesus to be one of the Twelve (Matt. 4:21; Mark 1:19–20; Luke 5:10–11). Jesus nicknamed James and John ‘Boanerges,’ meaning ‘sons of thunder’ (Mark 3:17). The two are prominent in the various lists of the Twelve (Matt. 10:2–4; Mark 3:16–19; Luke 6:14–16; Acts 1:13). With Peter, they were present when Jesus raised Jairus’s daughter (Mark 5:37; Luke 8:51), at the transfiguration (Matt. 17:1; Mark 9:2; Luke 9:28), and in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 26:37; Mark 14:33). The brothers (or their mother) request special places beside Jesus at the time of the messianic kingdom (Matt. 20:20–23; Mark 10:35–40). They are clearly very close associates of Jesus. Acts 12:2 reports James’s martyrdom by decapitation at the command of Herod Agrippa I.
- **The son of Alphaeus**. Identified in the apostolic lists as one of the Twelve (Matt. 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15; Acts 1:13), little else is known about him. He is sometimes identified with the ‘James the younger’ of Mark 15:40.
- **The father of Judas** (one of the Twelve; Luke 6:16), otherwise apparently not mentioned in the New Testament.

- Harper’s Bible Dictionary

Several men named James in the New Testament

The half-brother of Jesus. “The brothers of the Lord” are mentioned in 1 Corinthians 9:5; Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3; Acts 1:14; and Galatians 1:19. Though apparently not followers during Jesus’ ministry (Matt. 12:46–50; Mark 3:31–35; Luke 8:19–21; John 7:3–5), the brothers are reportedly with the Twelve and others after Jesus’ resurrection and ascension (Acts 1:14), and James is identified as one to whom Jesus appeared (1 Cor. 15:7). Eventually, James emerges as the recognized successor (along with the elders) to the leadership role originally exercised by Peter and the apostles (Acts 15 and following). Paul acknowledges James’s role of leadership (Gal. 2:1–12), and Acts 15 reports his persuasive defense of the Gentile mission. Both the Jewish historian Josephus and the Christian Hegesippus (according to the fourth century church historian Eusebius) report that James was put to death by the priestly authorities in Jerusalem a few years before the destruction of the Temple in AD 70.

- Harper’s Bible Dictionary

What was his real name?

James was actually named Jacob (Iakōbos Ἰάκωβος).

“James and “Jacob” come from the same root word.

The actual Hebrew name “Jacob” is יַעֲקֹב Ya'aqov.

Could it be that King James desired to see his name in the English translation he authorized?

Who was this James?

James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings. James 1:1

“Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, **James** and Joseph and Simon and Judas?” Matthew 13:55

Consider it all [pure] **joy**, my brethren,
when you encounter various trials,
knowing that the testing of your faith
produces endurance. James 1:2-3

Trials should not be seen as a punishment, a curse, or a
calamity but something that must prompt rejoicing.

– Bible Knowledge Commentary

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

Let's Learn Some Greek

Consider [ἡγέομαι hegeomai] it all **joy** [χαρά chara], my brethren, when you encounter [περιπίπτω peripipto] various **trials** [πειρασμός peirasmos], knowing that the testing [δοκίμιον dokimion] of your faith produces [κατεργάζομαι katergazomai, a process, not an instant accomplishment] endurance [ὑπομονή hupomone]. James 1:2-3

Encounter Various Trials

Consider

ἡγέομαι hegeomai

Definition: Count, think, esteem, deem

Encounter

περιπίπτω peripipto

Definition: be surrounded by, fall into

Various

ποικίλος poikilos

Definition: multi-faceted, diverse, variegated

Trials

πειρασμός peirasmos

Definition: an experiment, attempt, trial, proving

Real growth comes through a variety of workouts



WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by **various trials**, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1:6-9

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

Various Personal Trials This Week

- Emotional
- Spiritual
- Medical
- Financial
- Relationships
- Social

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. James 1:2-3

Various National Trials This Week

- Loss of 13 U.S. military personnel in Afghanistan during bombing at Kabul airport
- American citizens stranded in Afghanistan, allies of the U.S. military abandoned
- More explosions this morning in Kabul
- Taliban terrorists now possess \$85 billion worth of U.S. military equipment
- Reportedly 8,877 COVID-related deaths across America this week
- Employers forcing employees to take COVID vaccines
- 20 people died in a Tennessee flood
- Hurricane Ida hitting Louisiana today on 16th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina
- Personal data of 50 million T-Mobile customers hacked
- Colorado day care provider convicted for hiding 26 children behind a false basement wall

And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:4

- Trials from without and temptations from within are no match for a Christian who stands in the truth from above.
- “Mature” (teleioi), often translated “perfect” or “finished,” is coupled with “complete” (holoklēroi, from holos, “whole,” and klēros, “part”) to give the idea of perfected all over or fully developed in every part.

***Real growth is shown on the playing field,
not in the locker room or on the bench.***



WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

Let's Learn Some Greek

And let endurance [ὑπομονή hupomone – patient waiting] have its perfect [τέλειος teleios - mature] result [ἔργον ergon - product, deed], so that you may be perfect [τέλειος teleios - mature] and complete [όλόκληρος holokleros - whole], lacking in nothing [μηθείς medeis]. James 1:4

What does spiritual maturity look like?

These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a **righteous** man, **blameless** in his time; Noah walked with God.

Genesis 6:9

Jesus said, “For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Therefore you are to be **perfect** [τέλειος teleios], as your heavenly Father is **perfect** [τέλειος teleios].” Matthew 5:46-48

Although the trials were painful, James calls the believers to rejoice, not because the pain is pleasant but because they should have a perspective which looks beyond the present life to eternal reward. The pure joy is not a present happiness, but joy in anticipation of God's future.

For those readers who knew their Scripture, as James certainly did, the importance of this virtue is underlined by the fact that Abraham is the first person in Scripture to be tested (Genesis 22:1) and God rewarded his faithfulness. Furthermore, Job was also tested by Satan, and in the stories about Job circulating in first-century Judaism he was the supreme example of perseverance. Surely these early Christians could expect a similar reward.

Perseverance itself has an effect. It is like holding a fine steel sword blade in the fire until it is thoroughly tempered. In this case the sword is the believer, the fire is testing and the 'tempering' is that the believer becomes mature and complete, not lacking anything. The Greek term for 'mature' is also often translated as 'perfect'.

This type of maturity is produced by holding fast to the faith and Christian virtue while in the fire of persecution. The impurities in one's character will be burned off. **The end result will be not just maturity, but completeness, which means that not a single part of a God-like character will be lacking.** If this is the end result of the readers' trials, difficult as they may be, there is indeed something to rejoice about.

A Consistent Biblical Theme

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we **exult** in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also **exult** in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Romans 5:2-5

What if I can't find the joy in trials?

What if I fear failing this test?

But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. James 1:5

- In the literal Greek, He is “the giving God” (*tou didontos theou*)
- Prayer is not useless or a waste of time
- God does not criticize those who ask for help

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

Let's Learn Some Greek

But if any of you lacks wisdom [σοφία
Sophia - broad and full of intelligence], let
him ask [αἰτέω aiteo - desire, beg] of God,
who gives to all generously and without
reproach, and it will be given to him.

James 1:5

For if you cry for discernment, lift your voice for understanding; if you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will discern the fear of the Lord and discover the knowledge of God. **For the Lord gives wisdom;** from His mouth come knowledge and understanding. Proverbs 2:3-6

But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. James 1:6

The 'doubting' James warns about is not that of a person who wonders whether or not God will answer this particular request, or that of an introspective doubter who struggles with faith. Instead it is that of a person who is double-minded, a phrase with a close equivalent in the Psalms (Psalm 12:1–2), and which is the opposite of trusting God from one's whole heart (Deuteronomy 6:5; 8:3). In other words, this kind of a doubter is the person who is not wholly committed to God, but 'plays safe' by praying. Their real interest is in advancement in this world, but they also want to enjoy some of God's blessings now and go to heaven when they die. Such a person will not get wisdom, James says. In fact, such a person will not receive anything at all from God. - New Bible Commentary

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. James 1:7-8

- What is my mind focused on?
- Am I single-focused on Jesus?

But the brother of humble circumstances [lack of wealth] is to glory in his high position; and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like flowering grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with a scorching wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his pursuits will fade away. James 1:9-11

The brother in humble circumstances can be glad in his high standing spiritually, and the one who is rich can be glad for his human frailty (knowing that he has “eternal glory” in Christ, see 2 Corinthians 4:17). - Bible Knowledge Commentary

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. James 1:12

“Blessed” in English is the Greek word *Makarios*, meaning “happy, fortunate, inwardly content, satisfaction not based on circumstances”

Let's Learn Some Greek

Blessed [μακάριος Makarios] is a man who perseveres [ὑπομένω hupomeno - verb] under trial [πειρασμός peirasmos]; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love [ἀγαπάω agapao] Him. James 1:12

Where do I find Makarios?

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught...

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matthew 5:3-12

WORDS OF
JOY
Jeremiah 15:16

Your words were found and I ate them, and
Your words became for me a joy and the
delight of my heart; for I have been called by
Your name, O Lord God of hosts.

Jeremiah 15:16

Q: Where can I find God's words?

A: Find Jesus

Jesus said, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; **the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.**"

John 6:63

How can disciples of Jesus deal with Suffering?

- **H**old onto Jesus
 - I have a spiritual foundation, a rock in the storm
- **U**nderstand the circumstances
 - What/who is causing my pain? Is it my sin?
- **R**emember biblical truth
 - What did I believe about God's character on the good days?
- **T**rust in God's grace
 - He is never evil or unjust. He is always kind.
 - What can I learn from this?