

Practical Christianity
First Steps
James 1.1-4

*James 1:1–4 - James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting. ²My brethren, **count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;** ³Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

Things To Know At The Moment Of Your Salvation – Diverse Temptations (vs 2)

1. Religious Confusion Abounds

*1 John 4:1 - Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: **because many false prophets are gone out into the world.***

False Religious Systems abound and have always abounded in this wayward world.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said,

Matthew 24:24 - For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

*Mark 13:22 - For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, **to seduce**, if it were possible, even the elect.*

The primary tool of these seducers and deceivers is the Devil's Bible, which brings us to the next important diverse temptation.

Sources of Confusion,

Colossians 2:8 - Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

- **Philosophy and Vain Deceit** – The worthless opinions of mankind. These are most likely wicked imaginations.

- **The Traditions Of Men** – These are man made religious systems. All religions are man made, God never made a religion.
- **Rudiments of the World** – The schemes and politics of this fallen world. This is worldliness and it has never been as profound as it is in our modern times with social medias.

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1. Religious Confusion abounds

Beware lest these sources of confusion lead you into deception. Don't be seduced.

2. The Famine of the Word of God

Memorize this Verse and take it to heart in your Christian Journey!

1 Peter 2:2 - As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

God Says about His Word!

Amos 8:11–13 - Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: ¹²And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, **they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.** ¹³In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst.

God says about the Word of God,

Psalm 12:6–7 - The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. ⁷Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, **thou shalt preserve them** from this generation for ever.

Proverbs 30:5–6 - Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. ⁶**Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.**

1 Peter 1:23–25 - Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. ²⁴For all flesh is as grass,

and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: ²⁵**But the word of the Lord endureth for ever.** And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

Deuteronomy 4:2 - Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

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1. Religious Confusion abounds
2. The Famine of the Word of God

Every Born Again Christian must know where to find the Perfectly Preserved Word of God and must carry with them and hide it in their heart. Why is the Word of God so very important to ever Child of God.

1 Peter 2:2 - As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, **that ye may grow thereby:**

Psalms 119:9 - Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

Psalms 119:11 - Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

3. Persecution in Guaranteed

James 1:2 - My brethren, count it all joy **when ye fall into divers temptations;**

Notice the word “When” in our text. Don’t miss that word!

2 Timothy 3:12–13 - Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus **shall suffer persecution.** ¹³But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

Our Lord Jesus Christ teaches us about **Three types of persecution,**

Matthew 5:10–12 - Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹**Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.** ¹²Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

- **Reviling (vs 11)** - *Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, . . .* - This is the mocking of your faith and life in Christ. Nobody likes to be mocked.
- **Persecution (vs 11)** - *Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, . . .*
- The Physical attack.
- **The Lies (vs 11)** - *Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*

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Matthew 5:12 - Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

4. Spiritual Warfare is real and aggressive

1 John 4:1–4 - Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. ²Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: ³And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. ⁴Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Spiritual Warfare – The Spirit Realm

1 Peter 5:8–9 - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: ⁹Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

2 Corinthians 11:13–15 - For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

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