

## Family Lines of Ministry

***“James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad; greetings.***

***My brethren, count it all joy when it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.***

***Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.”*** (James 1:1-8, 13)

1. Many ministers have children involved in ministry.
  - a. Devout Christians usually have Christian children.
  - b. Those in music ministry, praise and worship, have children involved in Christian worship.
2. James was the half brother of the Lord Jesus.
  - a. As he grew up, he did not like his brother Jesus.
  - b. He did not become a believer until after Jesus’ resurrection.
  - c. There were many ministers in Mary’s family:
    1. Jesus
    2. Jude
    3. James
    4. History tells us Jesus’ two sisters married ministers.
  - d. There is something in the DNA of a minister which gets into the children. Many become ministers or associated with the ministry.

- e. Minister's children can handle tribulation better than most because they saw both sides of Christians.
3. The believers who fled Jerusalem and Israel at the persecution were scattered abroad or "sown as seed."
    - a. What was meant by Satan to destroy the believers only caused them to increase.
    - b. Once believers landed in different countries, they grew strong and started churches.
  4. The Jewish believers had been away from New Testament teachings for so long they began to revert to Old Testament viewpoints of God's sovereignty. God is responsible for all good and bad in our lives.
    - a. So little was taught about Satan in the Old Testament. The prevailing attitude among Old Testament believers was, "the Lord gives, and He takes away."
    - b. God is not the one who uses evil to try our faith. It is Satan.
    - c. This is why James tells his congregation, "no one should say, 'God is tempting me'" (James 1:13)
    - d. If we endure temptation, the reward is more patience and endurance.
    - e. The end result in our lives will be maturity, perfection, and a wanting or lack of nothing.
  5. God's role in testing:
    - a. God is ready to answer any request for wisdom we have during persecution and testing.
    - b. God will never ridicule us for asking, but freely give in abundance.
  6. If we keep our eyes on the word and also on the trials. We become double-minded, double-souled, or a man with two heads.
    - a. One head wants to do one thing and the other head wants to do another.
    - b. Like anything with two heads, we become a freak.