

Smart Homes: Smart Homes Have Trouble Too

January 10, 2021

James 1:1-4 (NLT)

This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am writing to the “twelve tribes”—Jewish believers scattered abroad.

Greetings!

² Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

TROUBLE>ENDURANCE>MATURITY

Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

When you are in trouble and you don't know what to do, what do you do?

James 1:5-8

“If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. ⁶ But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God

alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

Wisdom is receiving God's Perspective

Sources of Wisdom

*Through His Spirit
Through His Word
Through mature Christians*

James 1:9-11

“Believers who are poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them. ¹⁰ And those who are rich should boast that God has humbled them. They will fade away like a little flower in the field. ¹¹ The hot sun rises and the grass withers; the little flower droops and falls, and its beauty fades away. In the same way, the rich will fade away with all of their achievements.”

Question: Does having money keep people from having troubles?

James 1: 12-15

“God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has

promised to those who love him. ¹³ And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, “God is tempting me.” God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. ¹⁴ Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. ¹⁵ These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.”

TROUBLE>GOD'S WAY>CROWN OF LIFE

TROUBLE>MY WAY>TROUBLE/DEATH

James 1:16-18

“So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow. ¹⁸ He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.”

*Every great story is birthed out of struggle.
Every great testimony comes from a time of trouble.*

Through our troubles, God holds on to us as His prized possession