

KNOWING GOD IN ADVERSITY

James 1:1-12



OVER THE HORIZON

49 seats at 2022 PRU 15





REALISM OF BIBLE

James 1:2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.



A. Rejoice

B. Seek

C. Boast

KNOWING GOD IN ADVERSITY

A. We need to rejoice in seeing
God's purposes in adversity

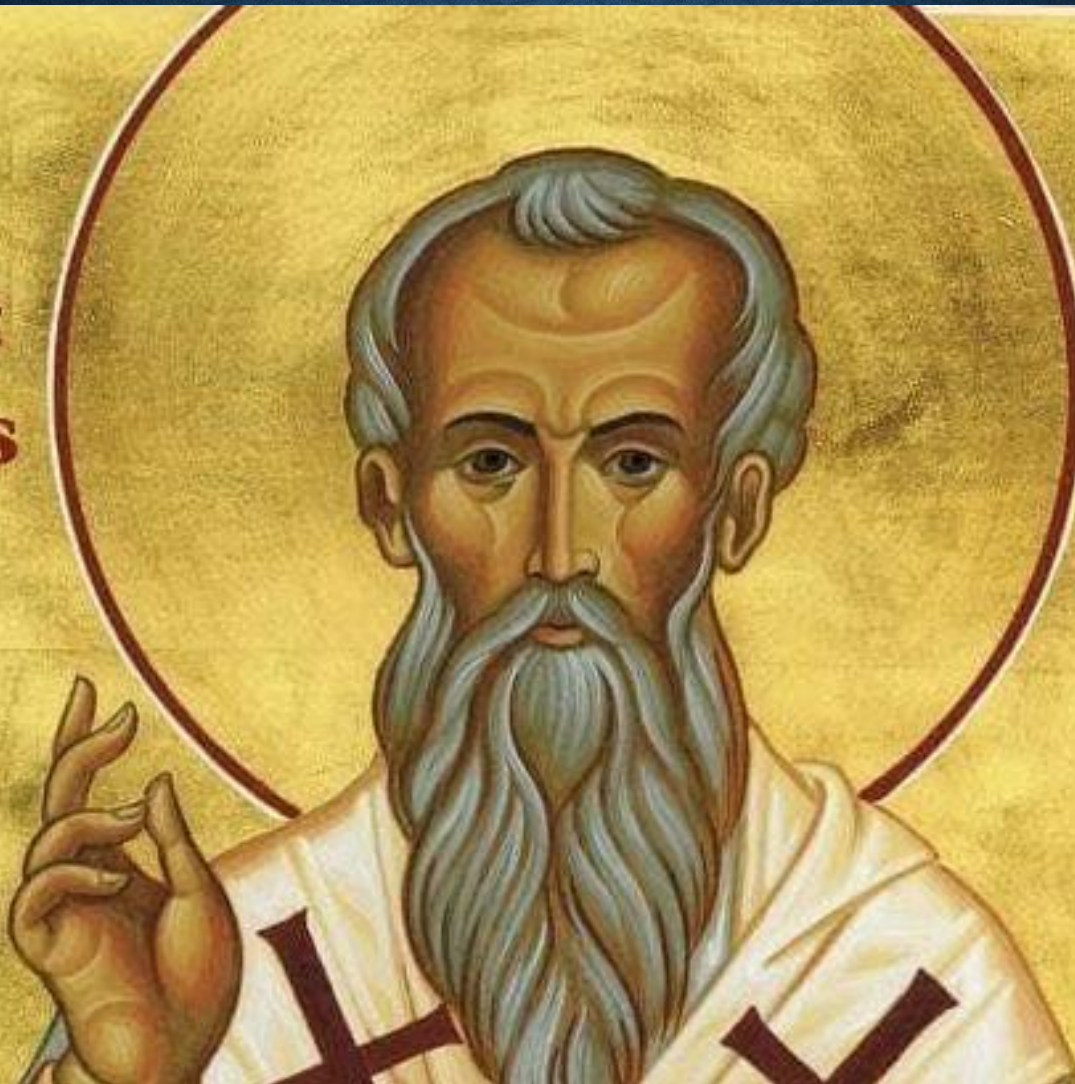
B. We need to seek God's wisdom to
make sense of our adversity

C. We need to boast in how God sees
us not how we see our selves

WHO IS THIS JAMES?



**Saint
James**




**Brother
of the LORD
&
Bishop of
Jerusalem**



4 PILLARS

- Peter
- Paul
- James
- John

Identification	Scripture	Description
James, father of Jude	Lk 6:16	Also known as Thaddaeus, nothing
 <p>LIVING WITH THE PERFECT ELDER BROTHER</p>		
Mary's half brother to Jesus	Gal 1:19, Acts 1:14, 12:17; Jn 7:5	Resurrected Jesus, leader of early church martyred AD 62



UNBELIEVING

John 7:4 For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world.” 5 For not even his brothers believed in him.

MARTYRED AD 62



BOOK
OF

JAMES

A FAITH THAT WORKS

- Slandering and Judging
- Knowing God in Adversity
- Starting Wednesday
- Planning and Worry
- Understand the nature of
- March 2 2023
- The Christian and the Word
- Contact Church office
- Praying for the sick
- Spiritual Restoration Poor



James 1:1 James, a servant of God
and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes in the

Dispersion:

Greetings.

DOUBLE DISPERSION





A COMMAND

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion:

Egeomai-- to lead, consider, count, regard
Greetings.

2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you
meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that
the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4
And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you
may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

HOW CAN WE HAVE JOY IN THE MIDST OF SORROW?

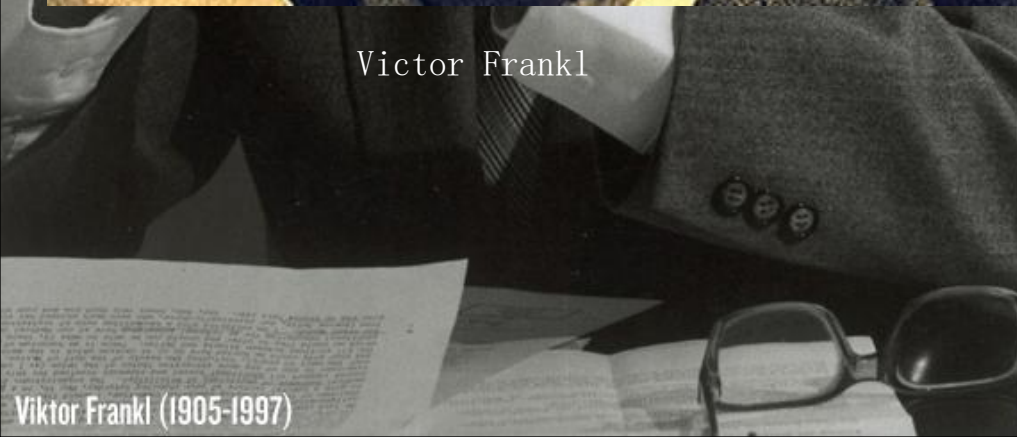


Leading procession

It is not the
only emotion but
the leading one



Victor Frankl



Viktor Frankl (1905-1997)

CHOICE

MAN'S
SEARCH
FOR
MEANING
VICTOR E.
FRANKL
WITH A NEW FOREWORD BY
HAROLD S. KUSHNER
In our response lies
our growth and
our freedom.”



Stimulus : Fired from Job

Interpretation

Unfair
Victim
I am
useless and
no good

Our Power to Choose

Response

Sadness

Fear

Hopelessness

Powerlessness

Frustration

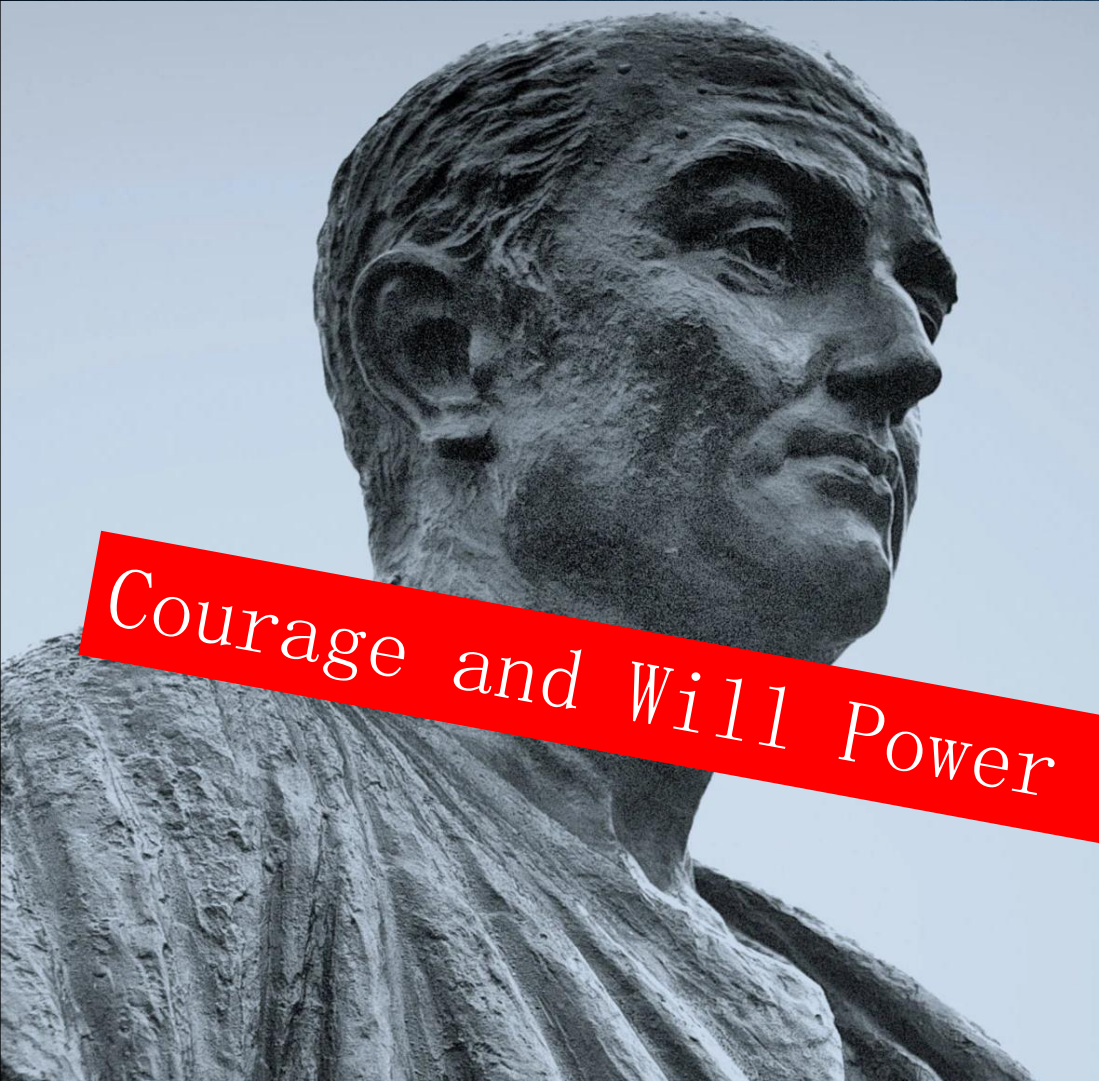


A woman with short brown hair and glasses is sitting up in a hospital bed. She is wearing a blue hospital gown and is holding a white and blue disposable coffee cup with both hands. She has a pained or distressed expression on her face, with furrowed brows and a slight frown. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The text "NO PAIN" is overlaid in a white, stylized font on the right side of the image.

NO PAIN

SENECA

WHERE IS
THE JOY?



Courage and Will Power

*On many an occasion
Having in mind not
I felt an urge to cut
how bravely I was
my life short there
capable of dying but
and then, and was
how far from bravely
only held back by the
he was capable of
thought of my father,
bearing the loss, I
who had been the
commanded myself
kindest of fathers to
to live. There are
me and was then in
times when even to
his old age.
live is an act of
bravery.” — Seneca*



Fear

Sadness

Hopelessness

Powerlessness



Joy





LIFE IS AVOIDING POT HOLES?

REIMAGINING POT HOLES?

CONCRETE SPIRITUAL TRUTH



God has a purpose it is not
random nor out of control

James 1:2 Count it all joy, my
brothers, when you meet trials of
various kinds, 3 for you know that
the testing of your faith produces
steadfastness. 4 And let
steadfastness have its full effect,
that you may be perfect and complete,
lacking in nothing.



*BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF HOPE IS CERTAINTY
STEADFASTNESS ENABLES US TO SEE THE FUTURE*

Romans 5:3-4 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

WHAT IS LEADING EMOTION HERE

Which emotion is rooted in reality



WHAT IS LEADING EMOTION HERE

Which emotion is rooted in reality?



A photograph of an elderly couple, Phillip and Penelope Knatchbul, sitting in the front of a car. Phillip, on the left, is wearing a grey tweed jacket and is looking towards the right with a slight smile. Penelope, on the right, is wearing an orange jacket over a pink and white striped shirt and is smiling broadly, looking towards the right. The car's interior, including the steering wheel and dashboard, is visible. The background outside the car is a blurred green landscape. The text "Phillip and Penelope Knatchbul" is overlaid in white serif font on the right side of the image.

Phillip and Penelope Knatchbul

LOOKING BACK AT WEDDING PHOTOS



JOY BASED ON GOD'S CONTROL OF THE FUTURE

CONCRETE SPIRITUAL TRUTH



James 1:2 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.



A DESTINATION

Genesis 17:1–2 (ESV) When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him,
“I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, 2 that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.”



A DESTINATION

Deuteronomy 18:13-14 (ESV) You shall be blameless before the LORD your God, 14 for these nations, which you are about to dispossess, listen to fortune-tellers and to diviners. But as for you, the LORD your God has not allowed you to do this.



Matthew 5:44-45. But I say to you,
Matthew 5:48 You
Love your enemies and pray for those
therefore must be
who persecute you, 45 so that you may
be perfect, as your
be sons of your Father who is in
heaven. For he makes his sun rise on
the perfect and on the good, and sends
rain on the just and on the unjust.



Matthew 19:21-22 Jesus said to him,
“If you would be perfect, go, sell
what you possess and give to the poor,
and you will have treasure in heaven;
and come, follow me.” 22 When the
young man heard this he went away
sorrowful, for he had great
possessions.

COMPLTELY
DEVOTED





POT HOLES SERVE A
PURPOSE

KNOWING GOD IN ADVERSITY

A. We need to rejoice in seeing
God's purposes in adversity

B. We need to seek God's wisdom to
make sense of our adversity

C. We need to boast in how God sees
us not how we see our selves



Our World view

The Hard event
Cancer
Sickness
Accident
Financial loss

DISBELIEF

Our
World
view

Wisdom

James

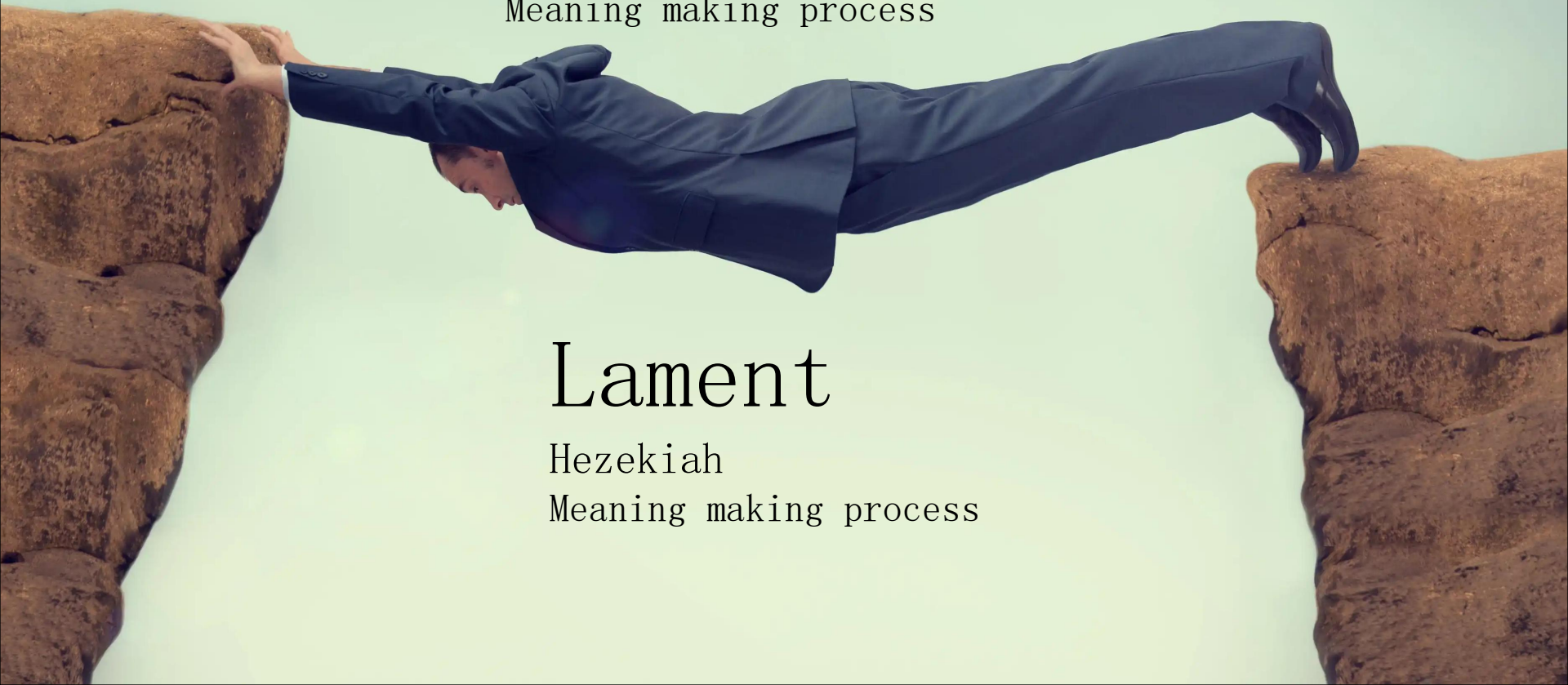
Meaning making process

The Hard event
Cancer
Sickness
Accident
Financial loss

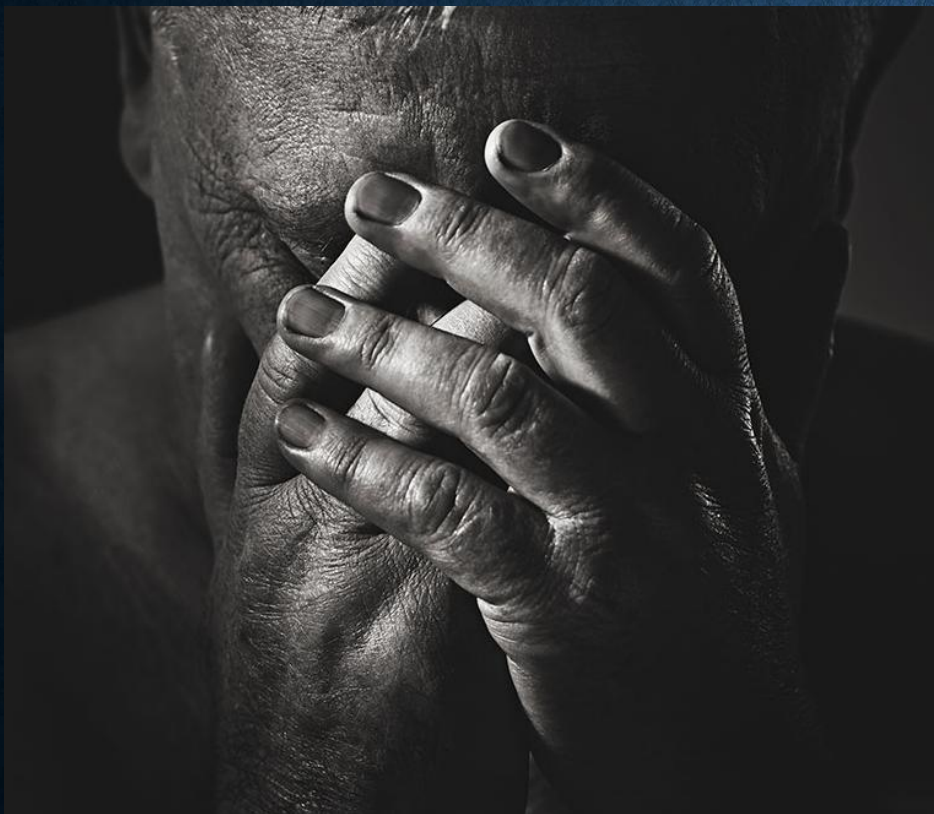
Lament

Hezekiah

Meaning making process



JOB COMPLAINED TO GOD-UNFAIR WORLD HIS CONCEPT OF THE WORLD FELL APART



Job 24:2-4 Some move landmarks; they seize flocks and pasture them.
3 They drive away the donkey of the fatherless; they take the widow's ox for a pledge.

4 They thrust the poor off the road; the poor of the earth all hide themselves.

BRINGS HIS PAIN OF INJUSTICE TO GOD



Job 24:12 (ESV) From
out of the city the
dying groan,
and the soul of the
wounded cries for help;
yet God charges no one
with wrong.

Stimulus : Fired from Job

Interpretation

Unfair
Victim
I am
useless and
no good

Wisdom

Response

Sadness

Hopelessness

Fear

Powerlessness

Frustration



WHAT KIND OF WISDOM

Wisdom



General Wisdom

Specific Wisdom
dealing with
suffering

Why would you need wisdom in
dealing with suffering?

WISDOM

Factual Knowledge

James 1:3 or you know
Psalms 111:10 The fear
that the testing of your
of the LORD is the
faith produces
beginning of wisdom;
steadfastness.

Necessary
Resolve

Righteousness
Image of God

Situational Insight

John Piper



Truth vs Love





Situational Insight



an exercise in scanning
85% OF THE TIME
FOUNDED ON THE BALL,
the STRONG AND
defense, noticing where
LOOKING MILDLY
the vulnerabilities lie
UNINTERESTED.
and calculating when
and how opportunities
might be seized. "After
five, ten minutes, he'll
have a map in his eyes
and in his brain,"

TWITTER LAYOFFS

Today



Twitter Sacks
"Roughly 80%"
Of Staff,



The logo for 9 News, featuring a blue grid of dots to the left of a large blue number '9', with the word 'NEWS' in blue capital letters below it.



OOPS. TWITTER IS
ALREADY TRYING TO
REHIRE WORKERS
ELON MUSK FIRED
DAYS AGO, SOURCES
SAY

*"Important to
admit when I'm
wrong & firing
them was truly one
of my biggest
mistakes."*



2018. Fridays for Future



A large crowd of people, many wearing face masks, is gathered on a city street for a climate justice march. They are holding a large white banner that reads "FIGHT FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE" in bold black letters. To the right of the text is a circular logo featuring a rainbow flag design with a white scale of justice. The crowd is diverse in age and appearance, and many are holding smaller signs and flags, including a rainbow flag. The background shows city buildings and a street with tram tracks. The overall atmosphere is one of a large-scale public demonstration.

**FIGHT FOR
CLIMATE JUSTICE**



A photograph of Greta Thunberg speaking at a podium. She is wearing a red shirt and has a long braid. She is looking to the right with a determined expression. A microphone is in front of her. The background is blue.

THE WORLD'S LACK OF RESOLVE

"For more than 30 years, the science has been crystal clear. How dare you continue to look away and come here saying that you're doing enough, when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight."

WISDOM

Factual Knowledge

Necessary
Resolve

**Righteousness
Image of God**

Situational Insight

John Piper

Agathos
Good

Kalos
Beautiful

James 3:13 Who is wise and
understands? By
his good conduct let him show
his works in the meekness of
wisdom.

Beautiful Lifestyle

MOST
INFLUENTIAL
MEN IN HISTORY



Isaac Newton

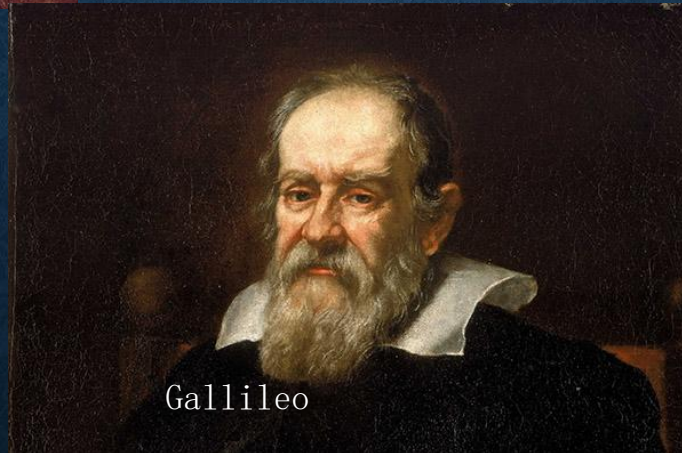


Mother Teresa

Beautiful lives



Leonardo-Davinci



Galileo



Putin

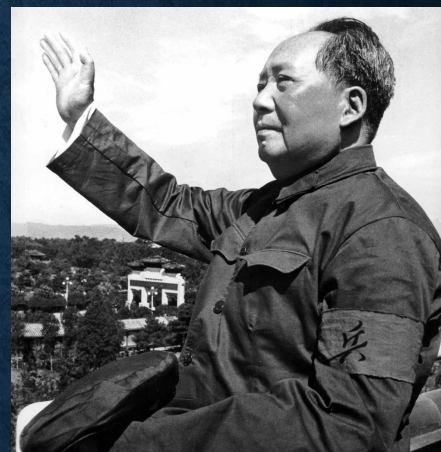


Stalin
Made lives
miserable



Polpot

MOST
INFLUENTIAL
MEN IN HISTORY



Mao

THE ASSURANCE



James 1:5 -6 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

*JOB NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY HE
SUFFERED BUT DISCOVERED WHO GOD IS*



James 5: 11 Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

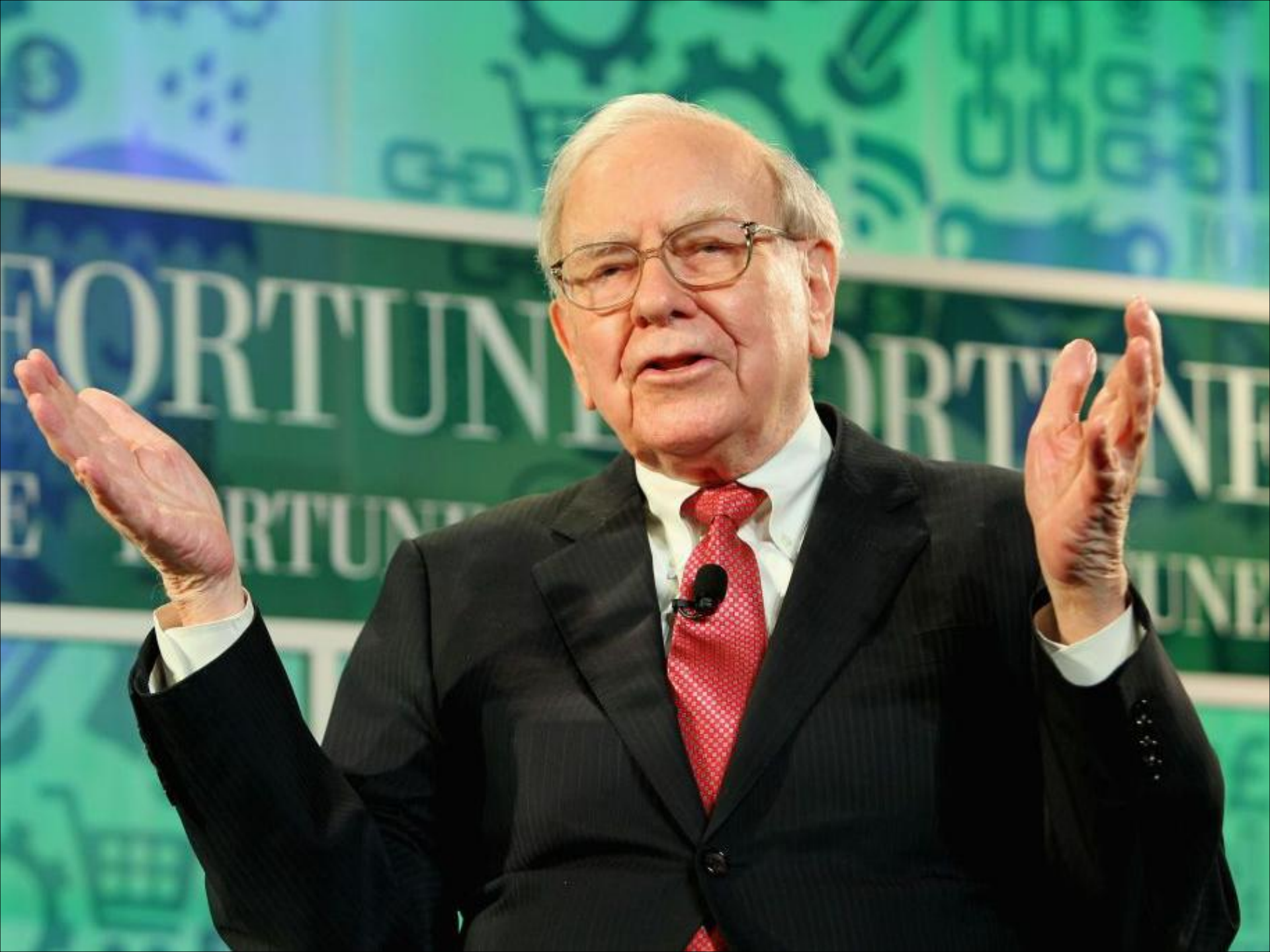
Experience of God so overwhelming

Another dimension and depth..he never knew why but we do

ONE CONDITION



James 1:6 But let him ask in faith,
with no doubting, for the one who
doubts is like a wave of the sea that
is driven and tossed by the wind. 7
For that person must not suppose that
he will receive anything from the
Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man,
unstable in all his ways.



WORD USED IN LATER PASSAGE

James 4:8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

The motive for
our asking for
His wisdom is to
draw near to Him
and not merely as
a way out of our
troubles



WISDOM

Factual Knowledge

Necessary
Resolve

**Righteousness
Image of God**

Situational Insight

John Piper

KNOWING GOD IN ADVERSITY

- A. We need to rejoice in seeing God's purposes in adversity
- B. We need to seek God's wisdom to make sense of our adversity
- C. We need to boast in how God sees us not how we see our selves



James 1:9-12 Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, 10 and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. 11 For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.





HOW GOD SEES US

Conventional wisdom



Lowly- poor

Vulnerable
Suffer
No resources to recover
Loss of confidence
Fear

Rejoice-Glory in
Be proud of

True spiritual Wisdom

James 2:5 (ESV) Listen,
my beloved brothers,
has not God chosen
the poor who are poor in
the world to be rich
in faith and heirs of
the kingdom, which he
has promised to those
who love him?

HOW GOD REVEALS US



Shame—nothing to boast


True spiritual Wisdom

Rich

Poor



James 1:10-11 and the rich
Anr hgan humiliation, because
Pikdea flower of the grass
Rethl e\$spass away. 11 For
Fæthunri bems wlt h sits
and rrich gsheat and withers
Wherkragainst flower falls,
and izensheputy beavshes. So
also will the rich man fade
away in the midst of his
pursuits.

A portrait of Gautam Adani, a middle-aged man with dark hair and a mustache, wearing a white shirt. He is seated in a dark leather chair against a background of light-colored vertical blinds. The image is framed by dark blue bars at the top and bottom.

Gautam Adani
Asia' s richest man
200 billion
Lost 90 billion

HOW GOD SEES US



Boast in their humiliation

Rich



Transitory nature of wealth
See past it
Not defined by it..esteem
Compared with others
Embarrassed by it..covet
Aware of danger..dead weight
Responsibility
Focus on glory of
God..Christ has done

A large, rough-hewn stone cross is positioned on the left side of the image, extending from the bottom towards the top. The cross is made of dark, textured stone with visible grain and some weathering. It stands against a clear, light blue sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image, partially overlapping the cross's arm.

The Wisdom of God's Foolishness

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

BECOME A FOOL

*Christ and His work on the cross is
the pivotal center of God's wisdom
because it enables us to fulfil our
destiny as created in His image for
His purposes*



LET US EXPERIENCE GOD IN THE PROMISE OUR ADVERSITY

A. Let us be joyful in the morning, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

B. Let us confidently seek God's wisdom to make sense of our adversity

C. Let us boast in how God sees us

LORD'S SUPPER



Without blemish — perfect

Psalms 15:1-2 O LORD, who shall
sojourn in your tent?

Who shall dwell on your holy hill?

2 He who walks blamelessly and does
what is right

and speaks truth in his heart;



Hebrews 2:9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Hebrews 2:10–11 For it was fitting
that he, for whom and by whom all
things ^{his office.} Vocational process by which he is
made complete or fully equipped for sons
to glory, should make the founder of
their salvation perfect through
suffering.

sufferings through which Christ had to
pass. They were a part of the process
by which Jesus was perfected

HOW JESUS WAS PERFECTED

Hebrews 5:8–10 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. 9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

Untested obedience

Proven obedience-perfect



GLORY BY SUFFERING

The willingness to suffer for a cause is the brightest display of the Father's glory in the universe.



Hebrews 10: 14 For by a
single offering he has
perfected for all time
those who are being
sanctified.