

### James 1:2-12 Chiasm:

- A) – 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**.
  - B) – 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, **let him ask** God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 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.
  - B') – 9 **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.
- A') – 12 **Blessed** is the man who remains steadfast under **trial**, for when he has **stood the test** he will receive **the crown of life**, which God has promised to those who love him.

### Explanation:

- In A. (the first “A”) James says “*Count it all joy*” and in A’ (the second “A”) he says “*Blessed is the man*” (or joyful is the man)
- In A. he talks about “trials” and “testing of your faith” and in A’ he talks about being under “trial” and standing “the test”
- In A. he talks about being “*perfect and complete, lacking in nothing*” and in A’ he talks about receiving “*the crown of life*”
  - Being “*perfect and complete*” is linked to receiving “*the crown of life*” (which we receive when we are perfect and complete)
- In B. (the first “B”) he says “*let him ask*” for wisdom and “*let him ask in faith*” and in B’ (the second “B”) he says “*let him boast*” (the poor in his exaltation and the rich in his humiliation).
  - This boasting also takes faith – if you are poor you need faith that you will be exalted and if you are rich, you need faith that you will be humbled in the midst of your pursuits.
  - This is why, later on in James 4:13-17, he warns against boasting about our business pursuits without qualifying our plans with the phrase “If the Lord wills” because “*all such boasting is evil.*”
- In B. he is talking about external trials that test us and in B’ he is talking about internal temptations that test us.
  - The external trials require wisdom and faith that God is not tempting us and the internal trials come from being tempted by our “own desire” (as he goes on to explain in verses 13-14)