

Test of Faith when Experienced Temptation Based on James 1:2-3

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ABSTRACT

Suffering and trials seem unavoidable in every aspect of life. Problems happen to everyone, even experienced by believers. Sometimes when trials occur, some think temptations come from God so they tend to make trouble with God. The purpose of this research is for every believer to understand that trials are not God's plan, but God allows trials to occur as a means of testing the faith of every one of His people. This study uses descriptive qualitative research methods by analyzing and concluding data obtained from library sources such as the Bible, journals and books. Trials do not come from God, but when His people experience trials, God will be ready to provide help to give strength

INTRODUCTION

It is possible that there are still believers who think wrongly about suffering. Some say that people whose lives fear God cannot experience suffering because it is impossible for God to want suffering for believers. (Sinaga, Lusiana Sinambela, et al., 2022) Before man fell into sin, man lived full of God's abundant blessings, and as the Creator, God fulfilled all of man's needs, but man lost his gratitude to the Giver. (Pane et al., 2022) So misfortune arises is not God's plan, because God always plans goodness and peace. Misfortune has arisen since humans fell into sin, as a result of these sins humans experience various trials.

Sin makes people no longer able to sincerely love one another. What exists is conflict, divisions between nations or tribes, racial prejudice, and the formation of international blocs that are mutually hostile. Sin creates division, separation and conflict between humans and each other both in community, religious, social, family and even church groups. Sin makes humans "exploit" each other. Humans are highly egocentric creatures, and that is why it is difficult for humans to ally with each other. (Sinaga, Sinambela, et al., 2022) The impact of rampant sin causes suffering to everyone directly or indirectly.

Trials are often associated with suffering, calamity, even things that are unpleasant. "Many people see trials or tests as something bad or must be avoided (run). It's not a good time, but a bad time." This view often makes believers give up and not face the test of their faith. Trials are basically designed to test a person's faith in order to become more persistent and perfect your faith in Christ. We know that testing our faith produces patience. And let patience bear ripe fruit. (Jam. 1:3-4). (Bethesda & Maiaweng, 2019)

Talking about the trials of life that we all go through often puts pressure and shock on the souls of those who are not ready to face life's problems. live together if they are unable to cope or accept the reality of life. Trials are often a big problem and can cause and lead to depression, making people forget that humans are created in the image and likeness of God. Humans were created to live in God's love and extraordinary circumstances, but the effect is often trials that keep them away from God. (Bethesda & Maiaweng, 2019)

Life is full of challenges and problems that everyone experiences throughout the stages of growth in life. Everyone, including people who are not expected to be able to solve problems appropriately so as not to harm themselves and others. However, in reality, in dealing with different behavior problems and community responses, there were brawls, violence between students, drug use, promiscuity among young people, domestic violence and others. James in his letter reminds us that when you experience problems or trials, all you need to do is ask to be given patience and fortitude towards all trials to produce maturity that makes faith grow to be like Christ. (Hardiyanto, 2021)

James is a community leader and feels that his duty to advise and even admonish Christians with a Jewish background is not easy and affects the life of faith and belief. Many Christians claim to have been saved by God's grace, but in their hearts they don't think of God as king. They claim to be Christians who have full faith in Christ, but they fail to demonstrate a true Christian lifestyle in their daily actions. The existence of the Book of James therefore at least provides an

extraordinary record that every believer must not only have faith, but be able to show his life of faith in the life he lives..(Jura, 2017)

James teaches something that is quite important in human life, which is related to aspects of the trials faced in the daily lives of unbelievers. Human life which is dynamic and is often faced with things that make it unsteady, needs to be examined carefully. James even led God's people to keep believing as proof of their faith in God, even James firmly rebuked those who were considered to have not applied the Christian faith which they had to prove in their daily life.(Jura, 2017)

METHODS

The research method is a scientific method for collecting data for specific purposes and objectives, including using the results, and investigating to solve problems.(Sugiyono, 2005, p. 1) Research methodology is also a step used in research that explains how research can be carried out so that research hypotheses can be tested scientifically, empirically, and rationally.(Iskandar, 2009, pp. 176-177) This study uses a descriptive qualitative research method by exploring library sources through the Bible, books, journals and other bibliography.(Zaluchu, 2021) Through this research, it is hoped that everyone will understand why someone experiences trials in their life, so that everyone does not easily lose hope in God.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Background to the Letter of James

The Epistle of James is part of 27 books in the New Testament. The authorship of the Epistle of James is stated in 2 evidences, namely internal evidence and external evidence and shows its validity. In the opening of the Letter of James 1:1 it is clearly stated who wrote the Letter of James, namely James himself. But the question is who is James in this passage. In the New Testament there are four people named James, including James the son of Zebedee and brother John (Mark 1:9), James the son of Alphaeus (Mark 3:18), James the father of Judas (Luke 6:16) and James the brother of Jesus (Gal. 1:9). The internal evidence states a clear focus on James the brother of the Lord Jesus, which is also believed by past scholars to be the external evidence. The interpreter clearly states that the writer of the Epistle of James is James, the brother of Jesus, according to several things in Jewish tradition, because James, the brother of Jesus, is one of the early church figures.(Stefanus Agus Budi Yanto, 2021)

James' approach to writing is very interesting, because his focus is on everyday life which is central to true Christian life. James wrote by looking at the side of the practice of faith in the lives of believers. And on many occasions, James became a highly respected early church father figure, because the message conveyed was more practical.(Kunto Baskoro & Santo, 2021)

Year of Writing

The year of writing the Book of James is between 45-50 AD with the place of writing in Jerusalem. The writing of the Book of James is very similar to the principles in the Book of Proverbs, also with Jesus' sermon on the hill in Matthew

5-7, which is clear that the recipients of James' writings were the twelve tribes that were scattered because of persecution and they were very loyal to follow Jesus (Acts 8:1b, 4). James' practical writing makes it easier for the reader to understand a real life. And the writing style of James is like in the Old Testament prophets. (Kunto Baskoro & Santo, 2021).

The Purpose of Writing the Book of James

James wrote this letter during the reign of Emperor Claudius. During his reign many Christians were persecuted, even forbidding Christians to pray in Jerusalem and abroad. During his reign, he established Herod Agrippa II as King of the Territory of Palestine. Herod Agrippa II persecuted Christians, the Apostle James was the first martyr killed during his reign, and the Apostle Peter was imprisoned. At that time, the persecution in Jerusalem caused Christians to be scattered throughout the land. (Priyono & Sri Wijayanto, 2022)

James is a letter to Jewish Christians scattered across the sea. They were recent converts who were forced to leave Jerusalem due to threats and pressure from the Jewish community, which at that time was against Christianity. James wants to lead all believers to live responsibly in their true faith in Jesus Christ. (Jura, 2017).

Definition of Temptation

The "temptation" here is a test or test of faith. Humans are not permitted by God to experience a test of faith, so that through that experience, a person who does not believe or rather that person's experience will produce or produce what is longed for. James 1:2 is a key passage in this discussion. The phrase "trial" describes the pressure or feelings that are very difficult for the lives of Jews who do not believe in the Lord Jesus as James conveys in this letter. The word "trial" or "test" or "exam" is the key word in this "endurance" problem. Temptation has two basic meanings. First, test with a purpose. That is, the question occurred with God's permission or the question was sent by God (Jam. 1:12; Luke 22:28; Acts 20:19; 1 Pet. 1:6; 4:12; 2 Pet. 2 :9). Second, with good or neutral intentions (Gal. 4:14). Third, with various traits or characters. This means that God wants to lead people to wrong actions through this test (Jam. 1:13-14; Luk. 4:13; 8:13). (Stefanus Agus Budi Yanto, 2021)

Trials or tests come from the Greek root "dokime." That is, an experience that contains two meanings. First, the process of temptation (cf. 2 Cor. 8:2). Second, the result of temptation (cf. Rom. 5:4). Whereas perseverance in James 1:3 shows more the result of an experience. The results are used through a process of various stages to remain happy in all trials or to be steadfast in trials. This process produces the perseverance that every believer expects in everyone's spiritual life. The literal conclusion of the phrase "perseverance" in the passage of James 1:2-8 has the meaning as the character or nature of believers which is produced through the process of life's struggle. (Stefanus Agus Budi Yanto, 2021).

Happening of Temptation

Trials are often associated with suffering, misfortune, and even discomfort. Many people think that studying and taking exams is bad and should be avoided. It's not a good time, it's a bad time. This view often makes believers give up and not face the test of their faith. Trials are basically designed to test your faith in order to become more persistent and perfect your faith in Christ. I know that testing my faith produces patience. And let patience bear ripe fruit. Then you will be perfect and complete and lacking in nothing (James 1:3-4). This is one of the reasons why Jacob reminded in his letter that the 12 overseas tribes were happy in the face of various trials. At the beginning of the contents of James' letter, we see that James understands the condition of the people who receive his letters. As immigrants, they suffer and experience different social situations, fights, property problems, and even tendencies. love of this world Things like that can shake a person's faith, including Christians at that time.(Hardiyanto, 2021)

Problems and trials are seen as opportunities to overcome trials rather than as causes of trials. Trials and trials that come from outside can be a source of temptation for humans. In other words, temptation does not come from God, but from humans who are bound by desire itself. Those who are brave enough to face trials see it as an instrument of the strength of their faith. Here the role of trials and tribulations in the process of growing the faith of every believer is very important. That is, it measures resilience and endurance in the face of external trials and tribulations. However, it should be noted that Allah is behind all the trials and tests that every believer faces.(Gulo, 2020).

God is not the Cause of Temptation

The holy God is not the source of all the trials and problems that everyone faces. James emphasizes that when someone is tempted, one must not say: "This temptation is from God!" Because he tempts neither himself nor anyone else. (Jam. 1:13).(Gulo, 2020) Trials as tests of faith are often misunderstood by many people, with the assumption that trials come from God or that every trial they experience comes from God (James 1:13). Trials can come from many possibilities, sometimes they are tests from the outside or temptations from within, temptations can be from the devil or the evil one either through other people or through every event but he tries only as far as permission from God as experienced by Ayub and his servants. His other. Temptation can also be of one's own will or because of one's flesh. But each one is tempted by his own desire, because he is drawn in and enticed by it (Jam 1:14).

Facing of Temptation

James assessed the trials that occurred in terms of the results obtained, he assessed all problems in terms of the results that would be obtained later. That is, as a believer you must be able to look forward, not to what is happening now but when the process is over (seeing the positive side of the problem). It should be understood that there is a difference between trials and tests, Allah tests the faith of believers with a positive purpose, namely the maturity of faith. Meanwhile, the devil or himself tempts believers to bring down or keep believers away from God. In Greek, *peirasmos* means test, trial or trial. (Widayanti, 2021)

Satan did not come to arrange a series of temptations at once. He exhibits a similar temptation. He mixes the pleasures of deception with a little advance, and deceiving the soul, they add that great benefit is to be had from associating with them. This is just part of the scam. This is the devil's hell guise. Deluded souls take one step and then prepare for the next. It would be more pleasant to follow one's own inclinations than to stand on the defensive, and resist the first insinuation of a cunning foe, and seal off the entrance. (Ellen G. White, 2013, p. 101)

Every hindrance, every enemy of the soul, only increases the need for Christ. He came to lift up a heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. Look to Him for special grace to overcome your special faults. When attacked by temptation, steadfastly reject evil suggestions; tell your soul, how can I offend my Redeemer? I have given myself to Christ; I don't want to do Satan's work. Call on the beloved Savior for help in letting go of every idol and forsaking every beloved sin. Let the eyes of faith be fixed on Jesus who stands before the Father's throne, holding out His wounded hand as He pleads for you. Believe that strength comes to you through your glorious Saviour. (Ellen G. White, 2007, p. 84) In the face of temptation to always depend on his higher power, than that which can be given by mortal man. (Ellen G. White, 2013, p. 108)

Temptation is a common thing experienced by Christians, but this needs to be watched out for because it can damage faith. Basically, trials have two opposing sides, weakening or strengthening the growth of faith. The strength of faith we experience depends on how we respond to the trials we experience. When our thinking about trials is so narrow, then when we experience trials all we do is give up on the good life, lose enthusiasm and live a life full of fear and do not believe in the power and purpose that God has given to our lives. (Gerald Aprillia Salindeho, 2020)

James opens this section with the statement "blessed are those who endure trials", here trials have a positive dimension for those who face trials with the right attitude. Blessed are those who endure trials, explaining that those who dare face trials see trials as a testing tool that will show perseverance in faith. In Revelation 2:10, God promises life which is eternal life for everyone who is truly valuable to God by enduring trials like Abraham endured trials and received God's promise (Gen 22:15-18). (Widayanti, 2021)

Temptation is a positive thing. Trials can bring life closer to perfection with luck, victory and spiritual beauty. Trials never shake a steadfast person. The

wise man faces all trials patiently and steadfastly to reach spiritual maturity to become more like Christ (Jam. 1:2-5). (Gulo, 2020).

Test of Faith

The Bible says: "Faith is the essence of hope, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Faith in its true sense is believing and obeying God's Word. The word faith in Arabic etymologically means to believe, to feel safe. In the sense of religion, the concept of faith is certain, sure in the heart, sure of something, sure of God and His revelations. Faith is generally understood to be in the heart, and no one but God knows it. Faith can also mean devotion. In short, the goal of faith is to believe. Believe by thinking something in your heart, then say it in words and put it into action.(Lusiana Sinambela et al., 2022)

The fact that we are called to endure trials proves that the Lord Jesus sees something very valuable in us and wants to develop it. He spends no time refining us unless He sees something in us that glorifies His name. Christ put no gems in his furnace. This is a precious seed that he proves. God's grace reveals all their hidden flaws to those whom God has destined for positions of responsibility. God uses His wisdom to guide people to places where they test their moral strength and reveal their motives for acting. It allows people to improve where they are right and leave where they are wrong. God wants His servants to truly understand the nature of their hearts. To make this possible, he often showered them with "fire of suffering" so that they could be purified.(Ellen G.White, 2016, p. 77)

James gives advice understanding that life's trials have a positive dimension to faith when believers endure suffering without compromise (James 1:2). James sees the suffering of this letter as a test of faith. God wants to test the faith of all believers to see if they truly believe in God and endure suffering.(Widayanti, 2021).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Everyone has fallen into temptation, and sometimes it is so heavy that sometimes it feels unable to face it. When you fall into temptation, sometimes you are provoked to declare that God deliberately gave him trials and God does not care about the problems that His people are facing when they fall into temptation. However, everyone needs to realize that trials do not come from God, but come from the evil one or the devil and it is possible that humans have thrown themselves into these temptations.

When humans fall into temptation, the thing that needs to be realized is how to survive and win against the trials they face. For God, if someone experiences trials, it is a means of testing the faith of that person. Everyone is tested whether he will remain faithful in the truth when he is in a problem of temptation, everyone is tested whether he does not deny His God and still believe in God when he is in a problem of temptation. And one thing that needs to be realized when someone falls into temptation God will always be with him to give strength and help, because every temptation will not exceed his strength.

FURTHER STUDY

Each study has limitations, thus this research can still be developed for the good of further research through a more comprehensive analysis process.

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