

A Study of the
book of

James

Is your faith visible?

James 1:22 Be doers of the word, and not hearers only. Otherwise, you are deceiving yourselves.

James 1

2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

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The Promise

James 1

5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Ephesians 1: 8 With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,

Colossians 1: 9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, 10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

The Promise

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The Conditions to the Promise

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1. Admitting that we lack wisdom

Proverbs 3

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

The Conditions to the Promise

James 1

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2. Seeking God's wisdom



1 Corinthians 3:

18 Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become “fools” so that you may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness”; 20 and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.”

The Conditions to the Promise

James 1

6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8 being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

3. Ask without doubt

The Conditions to the Promise

James 3:13 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

4. It is attached to moral goodness

The Conditions to the Promise

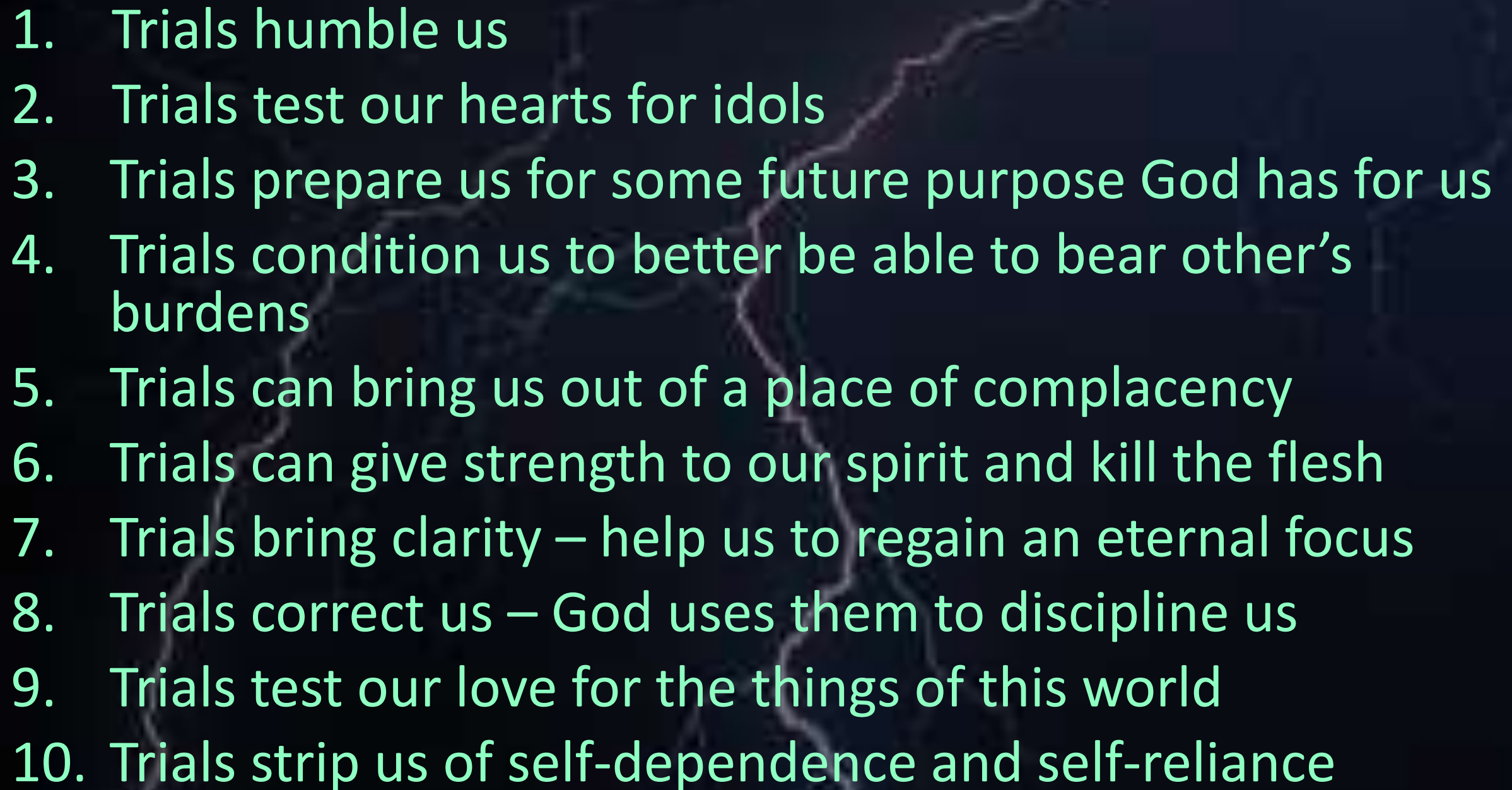
Colossians 3

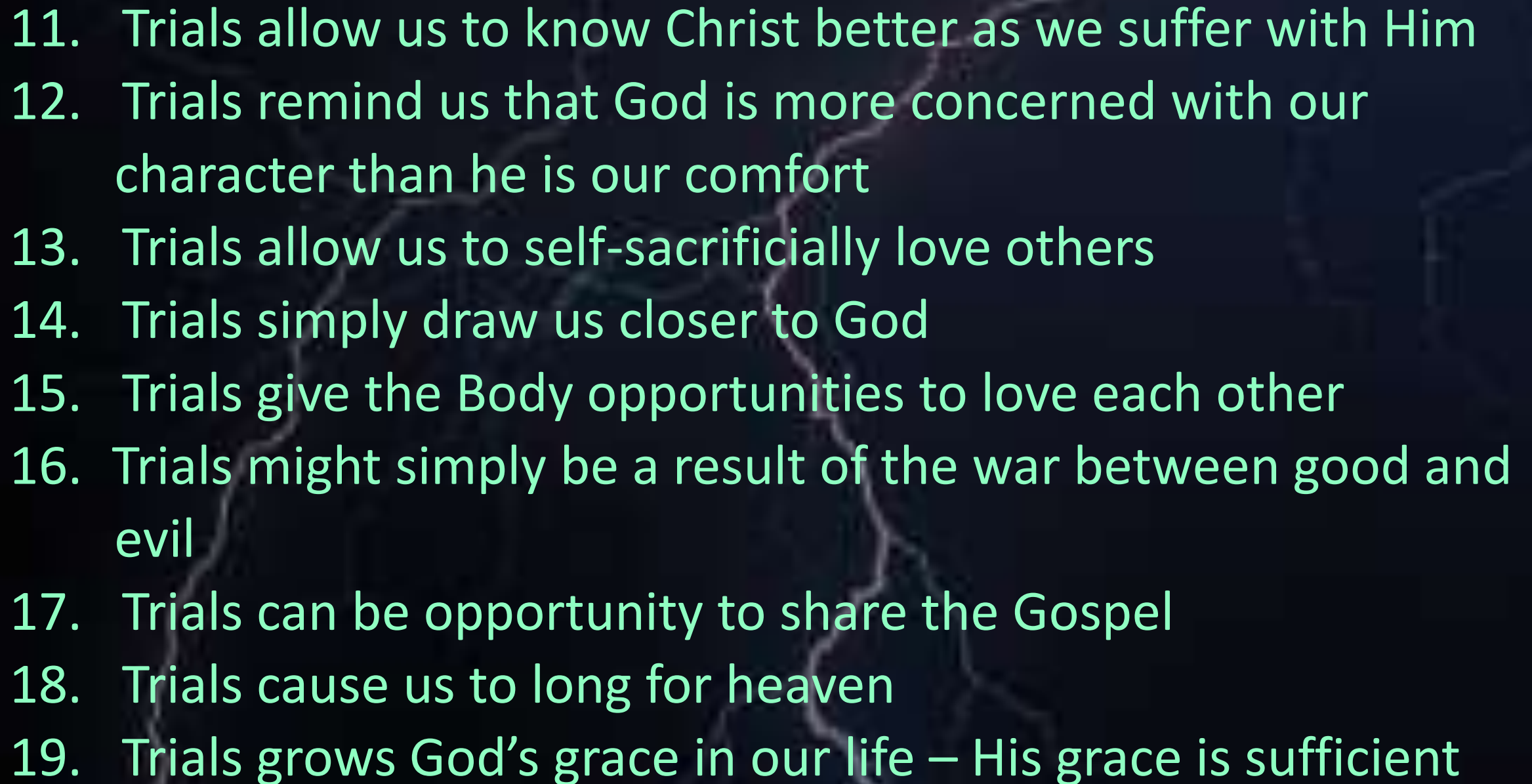
16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom,

5. God reveals His wisdom in scripture

2 Timothy 3

14 But as for you, continue in the things you have learned and firmly believed, since you know from whom you learned them. 15 From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for instruction, for conviction, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work.

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1. Trials humble us
 2. Trials test our hearts for idols
 3. Trials prepare us for some future purpose God has for us
 4. Trials condition us to better be able to bear other's burdens
 5. Trials can bring us out of a place of complacency
 6. Trials can give strength to our spirit and kill the flesh
 7. Trials bring clarity – help us to regain an eternal focus
 8. Trials correct us – God uses them to discipline us
 9. Trials test our love for the things of this world
 10. Trials strip us of self-dependence and self-reliance

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11. Trials allow us to know Christ better as we suffer with Him
 12. Trials remind us that God is more concerned with our character than he is our comfort
 13. Trials allow us to self-sacrificially love others
 14. Trials simply draw us closer to God
 15. Trials give the Body opportunities to love each other
 16. Trials might simply be a result of the war between good and evil
 17. Trials can be opportunity to share the Gospel
 18. Trials cause us to long for heaven
 19. Trials grows God's grace in our life – His grace is sufficient

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